#41

LadyLike

Exploring & Expressing Femininity

A Southern Belle...
Julie Phillips

Photo Feature
Paradise In The Poconos '99

The Fabulous Fls of
Le Carrousel

Drag Trivia Quiz
Test Your DQ

Letters, Letters, & Lots of Reader's Photos!

$US12 – $Can18

02
0 25274 89137 6

Letter From The Editor

Are We Nuts?

Those who don't have the urge to crossdress often feel that any man who wants to get all dolled up in women's clothes, makeup and frilly undies must be nuts. If he's not nuts then he must be gay and trying to attract men. In the midst of a party a straight guy asked me, "Ah, you're a guy, right?" (No, I didn't run screaming. That's no way to educate the unwashed masses.) He had a theory that I might be dressing up to meet women, gain their confidence and then ambush them with sexual advances. Talk about nuts — okay, it works sometimes. Anyhow, straight, non-dressing types just don't get it and that's where a lot of the real (and perceived) anti-transgender bias comes from. But, do they have a point? Are we, in fact, nuts?

I don't feel crazy, but then as I type this I've got glued on nails, glued on boobs and my genitals are stuffed into a very tiny space so as not to produce a bulge in my frilly undies. My feet are still sore from the feminine footwear I sported all day. I've had a wig on all day and it's squeezing the blood out of my head. My bank account has been squeezed, too, with the burden of supporting all my shopping for feminine attire. I could be nuts, I guess .

But, technically speaking, I'm not. Neither is anyone else who crossdresses. Unless your crossdressing causes significant problems in your everyday life then the fact that you want to crossdress doesn't make you crazy. On the other hand, do you struggle so hard to keep your crossdressing a secret that you have become paranoid someone will be able to just look at you and tell you love to dress? Have you been trying to suppress the urge to dress for years, giving in and dressing for a time and then purging all your femme stuff out of guilt? Have you become obsessed with the idea of becoming more and more "passable" and begun to make modifications to your body without telling people like your spouse. If you answered yes to these questions, you might be nuts, or rather going nuts.

I have talked to a number of crossdressers during my years with Renaissance, from the guy who wanted to know if we could tell him where to get breast implants so his at home crossdressing would be easier ((he had never been out of the house and he didn't have a plan on how to hide them when he had to be a male in public), to the one who kept calling for months about making copies of TG movies and workout videos (?) to send to Renaissance. This caller left many messages on our answering machine all sounding as if she'd forgotten her medication. We never got any tapes from her, either.

A lot of the calls I've gotten and the people I have met in the TG community are far from crazy. I've talked to men who are looking for information about their need to crossdress and were really glad to talk to another person who knew how they feel. They were regular guys who were sanely looking for information about how to do what they want to do. I have met individuals in the TG community who are among the nicest, sanest, most human people I've ever known.

I have also known my share of the loosely wrapped. Are they like that because of their crossdressing? In a roundabout way, yes, because they didn't get the chance to live "normal" lives (is there such a thing?), because they have been obsessed with crossdressing, they have shifted off the center of reality and into world-of-their-own territory. They have lost sight of, or maybe never developed, the ability to interact with other people. Perhaps they were scared to get to know anyone because if they did that person might learn about their desire to crossdress. Or, maybe guilt over being a crossdresser has developed into depression. Or, many other things could have gone wrong back in those ever popular formative years. All of that stuff is not their fault. It all comes from feeling bad about yourself because you want to do something that you think no one will accept. How can you avoid going nuts?

Step back for a minute and examine your relationship to your crossdressing. Is it healthy? If you have made a place in your life for crossdressing, given yourself freedom to be who you are, and explore who you might be, then you can be a healthy, non-wacky, crossdresser.

Above all, don't stay in the closet. Get out to a support group and meet others like yourself. If you really have depression, guilt or an obsessive relationship to your crossdressing, don't feel odd about talking to a therapist (a gender knowledgeable one, please) and get those issues settled so you can enjoy your life and your dressing. But... read the rest of this issue before you schedule that appointment.

Enjoy!

#41

LadyLike

Exploring & Expressing Femininity

Cover photo courtesy of Julie Phillips.

ISSN 1092-9207 © 2000 CDS, P. O. Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA USA 19406. Printed in the U.S.A. LadyLike magazine is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October. **The publisher is exempt from the record-keeping requirements and disclosure statements mandatedby 18 U.S. Code §2257 (a) through (c) and the pertinent Regulations, 28 C.F.R. Ch 1, Part 75 since all of such material falls within the definition of exempted material set forth in §75.7(a)(1-3) of the pertinent Regulations.** Any reproduction of the contents of this magazine without the express written permission of the publisher is illegal. All manuscripts are sent at owner's risk and will not be returned unless accompanied by SASE. Letters and photos cannot be returned.

Publisher
JoAnn Roberts

Editor
Angela Gardner

Sales & Advertising
CDS, PO Box 61263
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1263
Phone: 610.640.9449
LLmag@cdspub.com
www.cdspub.com/LL.html

In this issue...

Features

Profile: Julie Phillips 4

She's gorgeous. She's a CD, She's gay. Guess what? She's got the same problems as everybody else. Enjoy a great interview.

PhotoFeature: Paradise In The Poconos '99 17

We had a great time and it shows in these great pix from the weekend last November. Don't miss Poconos 2000!

Not Just Another Friday 26

Brenda Lawrence tells it like she sees it and thisis one day she'll not be soon to forget.

FlashBack: Le Carrousel – Part 1 32

Ms Bob & Carol take us to one of the premiere French FI clubs of the 50's. If you looked this good, you'd be on stage, too!

Drag Trivia Quiz – Part 1 36

Our new film reviewer, Madeline Rose, tests your DQ (Drag Quotient)

Departments

Letter From The Editor 2

Reader's Letters 11

Mirror-Mirror ..... 23 – 25, 39, 41, 42, 44, 45

Resources ..... 30 – 31

On My Mind 46

Name: Julie Phillips

Age: 30-Esque (More "Esque" Than 30)

Profession: Advertising

Residence: Nashville, Tenn.

Height: 5' 8 1/2"

Weight: 140

Measurements: 36-29-36

Shoe Size: 9

Favorite Clothes: Endless variations on the little black dress.

Favorite Things: Old movies, people who march to their own drummer, laughing, a nicely delivered sarcastic line (Groucho, Letterman, etc...), glamour, bleached-blonde guys, desserts, dancing, changing my hairstyle and color.

Least Favorite Things: laundry, intolerance and homophobia, poor dental hygiene, television preachers, shaving ANY part of my body.

Things I Say Often: I want to go out and "see and be seen"; There is no explaining taste and that explains everything; Without a deadline, I won't get anything done; Nothing ruins a good look like a $10 wig.

Julie Phillips - A Real Southern Belle

LL: Julie, you're a lovely "30-esque" and I know our readers are going to enjoy getting to know you. When did you first start to travel the glamour highway?

JP: Thank you. I can sum up my life by saying I'm a late bloomer. While I've crossdressed since puberty, I didn't dare venture from behind the locked apartment doors until a couple of years ago. And it wasn't until the dreaded 30th birthday that I finally came to terms with my sexuality and admitted to myself that I was gay. I certainly came busting out of *that* closet and I'm making serious headway on the crossdressing closet. All my gay friends know, and my close straight ones, too.

LL: How did they all take it?

JP: So far, I haven't lost many people with my revelations. All my friends seem to greet it with some amusement, which doesn't bother me. I've always been a little "different" so it just seems to fit in with their expectations. That's fine with me.

LL: Tell us about your friends.

JP: My close friends are an odd collection. I hope they take it as the compliment I mean it to be. Straight, bi, gay, transgendered, not transgendered, full time, part-time-a very mixed bag-but they all are open people, generally with an slightly-off sense of humor, like me.

LL: Your best friend is a straight guy.

JP: 100% straight, non-TG, but very secure in his identity and he's been totally accepting. Last year for Christmas, he gave me a lovely $2 boa and a $5 tiara purchased at that exclusive boutique, Toys-R-Us! The boa is wrapped around a glass head I have in the living room. He knew about me long before he met the femme me.

LL: How did that first meeting go?

JP: Being totally cool and very curious, he and his girlfriend met me out one Saturday night at the big gay dance club here, "The Connection." They saw the drag show and danced, then we ran into each other. I stunned him. His eyes got really wide. I was afraid it was too much for him to deal with "in person." Finally he said "You look just like an old girlfriend of mine! She was gorgeous!" It wasn't the dressing that freaked him, it was my resemblance to an old girlfriend. Every time he calls, the first words out of his mouth are "Hey there girly boy." I love it!

LL: How about GGs?

JP: A GG friend of mine called me over the day before she had a yard sale to give me first dibs on clothes and shoes. She'd given me a great pair of shoes months earlier that she didn't like. There are advantages to having small feet.

LL: How often do you dress?

JP: I'm a part-timer. I dress two or three times a week. I don't foresee me going the full-time course, though if I won a lottery, I'm sure I'd dress even more. My big accomplishment at this year's Southern Comfort was going to a convenience store in broad daylight! I'm not the bravest girl when it comes to daytime activities; I feel much more at home as a creature of the night. I am, obviously, making some headway on that and my daytime driving trips have proven to be most encouraging. Having guys smiling, waving and hooting at stoplights does wonders for my confidence. I love to look glamorous and/or sexy-always.

LL: How about early influences. Did you have anyone who you saw that made you think, maybe I can be like that?

JP: I can remember the very first time I saw a crossdresser. It made a major impression on me. I was somewhere around 9 years old and it was on "The Ed Sullivan Show." Ed brought out this "handsome young man" at the top of the show for us to take a look at because we wouldn't recognize him later. It was the legendary Jim Bailey, who returned later in the show as Judy Garland! It was the most

continued on next page

incredible, surreal, exciting thing I'd ever seen! Then he came back out later as Jim and sang. I was a future crossdresser from that moment on.

LL: What about the talk shows? Did you get any information from them?

JP: I owe a huge thanks to Phil Donahue. Without his show I never would have seen ANY crossdressers or gay people, much less seen them presented as normal, real people. He deserves a plaque or something.

LL: Tell us about your first time in femme attire.

JP: A friend of my sister left a pair of these horrible lime-green shoes at our place. Do you remember clogs? They were awful looking then and now... but I couldn't keep away from them. Every chance I got, I'd squeeze them on and walk around. I'm sure that's why I'm so happy that clunky/chunky shoes have come back in style. I love them, though I really do love wearing the basic 3" pumps.

LL: Give me a spike heel anytime! You said you're getting more confident. How did you get there?

JP: Over the years I've become fairly accepting of my crossdressing. Sure, there were a couple of purges, and a few dry-spells where I didn't dress often. But, being out on my own really helped. Then, after I'd "come out" as gay and seen many crossdressers and drag queens, I decided it wasn't a bad thing — a little different perhaps— but OK.

LL: Did you get any support from the TG community along the way?

JP: I was finally able to leave the house crossdressed with the support of a local TG group, the Tennessee Vals. I don't know that I would have had the nerve otherwise. I knew one of the Vals from volunteering at the local GLBT center, so one day I screwed up the nerve to talk to her. That was one of the toughest assignments I've ever made for myself. She invited me to a meeting and after days of excessive stress, I attended one. (Flop sweat is hell on your makeup.) It was a turning point in my life.

LL: Isn't it amazing that we get so worried about going to the one place where people will understand? What's happened since you took that first sweat covered step?

JP: Now I'm the newsletter editor, and I've been doing the "open stage" show at a local club. Yes, I'm a ham!

LL: Ima Hamm. There's a good drag queen name. How did you end up on stage?

JP: The first time I performed was almost as stressful as my first time out at a Vals meeting. Again, I was nervous and distracted all day at work. I fussed with my makeup for hours, all for my three-and-a-half minutes in the spotlight. I ended up going with my tried and true: shoulder length blonde hair, parted and combed almost over one eye, the other side tucked behind my ear, and I wore my red stretch, form-fitting evening gown that I knew looked good. My figure was about the only thing I was confident about. Some of the girls from the group, bless them, came out to support me. I can't tell you what I did when I finally got onstage. I had no idea what I was doing when I was doing it. All I know was it seemed to end as soon as it started-and that was way too soon! I loved every nerve-wracking moment of it! I'm sure this says a lot about me, but I loved being center stage, in the spotlight, and being the most glamorous girl in the room for those three minutes!

LL: Applause can do wonders for a girl's confidence. Let's talk about the downside of coming out, what negatives have you experienced?

JP: It cost me a relationship. As I was becoming more open and "out" with my dressing, and my S.O. was becoming more put out by the whole thing. He'd been attracted to a man, not a man and a woman. It was the main cause of our relationship ending. I had told him early on, but not at the very beginning, that I dressed. He knew drag queens, so he said "so what." Sadly, he was caught in the phase of my life where I was busting out and it was more than he could deal with.

LL: That drag explosion is something we all have in common, whether gay, straight or whatever. Our S.O.s have to be able to handle it or it won't work.

JP: I call it my "busting out" period. All of a sudden I was around people like myself who were encouraging me to explore my feminine side. I couldn't, and didn't, say no. The most feeble excuse was a good enough one for me to get dressed. I became far more adventurous than I'd ever thought I'd be — the "safety in numbers" idea really works for me.

For example, a bunch of girls went to dine early one evening at a fancy downtown hotel. I think this was my first daytime experience. I'm used to being a little overdressed and glamorous for nighttime clubbing, not daylight eating.

continued on next page

I wanted to do my best at passing in the hotel and restaurant. I stressed out over it, fussing a ridiculous amount of time with my makeup and wardrobe. I tried on every remotely conservative thing I had. Finally, I decided on a basic little black velvet dress, black pumps and a below-the-ear auburn wig. I parked in the parking garage and fussed with my face for another five minutes before getting up the nerve to just do it. I was very nervous about being read and finding myself in some vague, yet horrible situation. Well, I walked through the parking garage and no one noticed. I walked through the hotel, down the escalator, and into the busy lobby and no one noticed. I was delighted! This was just too cool. I was just a girl in the hotel as far as everyone I encountered was concerned.

LL: That is a great feeling. Sometimes you can actually find yourself wishing you were causing more of a stir. But, let's get back to the strength in numbers part.

JP: When you get a gaggle of girls together we all seem to somehow expose one another. No kidding-everyone on the hotel restaurant staff found an excuse to "coincidentally" pass through the dining room and stare wide-eyed at us.

LL: That phenomena increases exponentially with every girl you add to the party. How did the staff's attention make you feel?

JP: It didn't bother me at all because I was with other girls and I knew we'd be safe. Our waitress was wonderful, no one was rude and it turned out to be a great experience for me.

LL: How did coming out as gay affect your life?

JP: It wasn't until I came out as gay that I ever really went out to clubs. I never did really like straight clubs. I guess it's because I wasn't much interested in picking up girls and that always seemed to be the main reason for going. Now, I find myself looking forward to going to a couple of the bars and clubs here where I feel welcome and accepted. These are places where I can be as fabulous as I wanna be, and it's perfectly OK. If the dress is really short, that's always cool. If I'm in one of those odd gown moods, that's OK, too. One Sunday night, I was in my "overdressed" mood, so I put on an evening gown and sat at the bar. My favorite bartender asked me why I was so dressed up on a Sunday night. "No reason. I just wanted to wear a gown." That was good enough.

LL: That brings us back to the dating thing. What strategy have you adopted now when you meet a guy you're attracted to and he doesn't know about your crossdressing?

JP: To make an ugly, painful story short, if I go out on a real date with someone as a boy, and he doesn't know, I spill the beans by the second date. Honestly, it has resulted in a few dead-ends, but at least nobody was misled and no one's feelings got hurt. I now know that one has an obligation to come clean at the outset about their need to be fabulous- being totally honest is the only way to keep from hurting someone later.

LL: I totally agree. If you take the time to develop a bond with someone and they don't know it can raise all sorts of issues with them when they find out. What do you look for in a man and how do you deal with unwanted advances?

JP: It's very flattering to me to be flirted with. I LOVE it, even if it's a guy I'm not interested in. A compliment's a

compliment, you know. After a few disappointing experiences, I've become much choosier and ended up with a couple of rules. Rule one, no married guys. I get hit on often by married guys and I'm happy to flirt all they want, but that's as far as it's going. I'm greedy. I don't want to be the "other woman"; I want to be THE woman.

LL: What was your strangest dating experience?

JP: The most bizarre half-date I ever had was with a guy I met at the local bar. He was attractive, 30-something, articulate, well-dressed and quite a schmoozer. He sat down beside me, began chatting and we talked for a couple of hours. He said all the right things and treated me like the I was the most wonderful woman he'd ever met. He was seriously charming and such the gentleman. He wanted to do dinner the next evening. I gave him my number and as soon as I walked into the house, the phone rang. It was him telling me how nice the evening was and how he was looking forward to dinner tomorrow evening. This girl was on cloud nine! Jump ahead to the next night: I'm beautifully dressed in another of my little black dresses (I can never have enough of them) but not too glamorous to go to a restaurant. When he hadn't called by 7:30, I knew I'd been stood up. No call in the days to follow to say something came up, nothing. My best guess: Prince Charming gets his cookies off flirting with the girls, with no plan of going any further. I bet he's married and this way he can say he never actually cheated. I felt like a chump for falling for his line, but I guess it's easier to be swept off your feet when you really are hoping for it to happen.

LL: Yes, you have to enjoy the moment and if there's no follow through, c'est la vie. It's hard enough for anyone to meet someone nice that they want to be with these days. Is it easier or harder for you with your gay, CD status?

JP: It's tough to find guys who are OK with all of me. Being gay, I'm attracted to men regardless of what gender I'm in. But a lot of guys are attracted only to one or the other of my genders, not both. It's never safe to generalize, but a lot of the guys I've met who are cool with the whole package consider themselves bi. That works for me, since I *am* a two-for-one special.

LL: I'm sure you'll find someone to treat you like a princess. Thanks so much for consenting to be our Profile.

JP: Thank you for asking me.

(See more pix of Julie on page 24!)

CDtips

presents

Casino Night and Cabaret

Don't miss the premiere event of the season!

Lynda of CDtips invites you to attend this all day extravaganza and enjoy a night for the exclusive and the elegant that you will never forget!

Saturday, September 16th, Philadelphia, Pa.

- **Day Event 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM**
- **Cocktail Hour 5:00 – 6:00 PM**
- **Formal Dinner 6:00 – 8:00 PM**
- **Casino and Cabaret open at 8:15 PM**

Come early so you don't miss the events of the day including demonstrations from two make-up artists and great lectures including: coping with real-life from Michele, a post-op transsexual; the virtual transgender community with JoAnn Roberts of TransGender Forum; and, of course, me, Lynda Krupa.

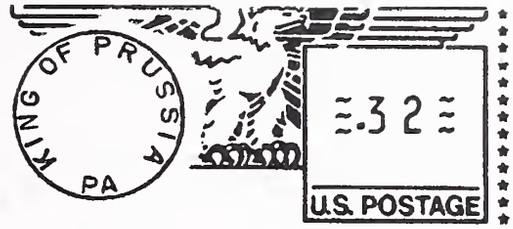
The evening's festivities begin at 5:00 PM with a cocktail hour featuring a caricaturist, a magician, photographers and more! Dress to impress for an elegant formal dinner. After dining, the casino* doors open and the stage lights go up! Try your hand at Lady Luck on games of chance where you can win prizes like a CDtips make over, wigs and TGForum goodies. In the cabaret the most stunning local TS performers will take you from goddess to beyond.

For details visit my website at www.CD-tips.com, send email to: CDtips@aol.com or call 215-878-3383.

Lynda of CDtips

*Games of chance are for entertainment purposes only.

Letters



Can't Help But Wonder "What If"

Hi, my name is Jerry. I'm a 49 year old white male who has enjoyed the pleasures of dressing for over 40 years. I'm not passable but still dream "what if" every time I am dressed up. I want to compliment you on a great magazine and I want to compliment all the ladies on their beautiful pictures. I am in awe of most of your models and readers. I especially want to say how beautiful I think Molly from Wisconsin, Nicole Shelby from Minnesota and, of course, Foxy Roxy are. I'd like to be able to meet some of the girls someday. I want to attend the Poconos event but I wonder if you can come alone. Thanks again for a great publication and keep up the good work.

Jerry, Wisconsin

PS: Have you thought about doing personals?

Angela: Remember Jerry, passing is not the most important thing. Go to a group in your area and have a good time socially around others who enjoy dressing. TG support groups offer a place where you can go no matter how you look. If you get out in the TG community you will find lots of people who range from totally believable to definitely men in dresses. All of them share a desire to dress and they do it in public to the extent that they can. You can come to a Pocono weekend by yourself or with a bus load of friends. Jus make sure you reserve early so you get a space. As for personals, we used to run them but changed in favor of the name and address with your photo. Personals seem to cheapen the magazine.

Finally Out

In my last correspondence I don't know if I told you but I have finally gotten "out." With the encouragement and company of a couple of gal friends it's been a great summer. I'm enjoying being single, and dating occasionally. There's a great new friend and boutique downtown, Suzi's. Suzi snapped this photo one day. (I'm chronically changing my hair.) I hope you will publish it in Mirror Mirror. I have to thank you all at LadyLike. When you published my photo last spring "things" began to change. And, I hope to see some of you at the Poconos this November.

Ali

Alison (Ali) Gayle, 807 Fairfax Park, 5278 Southwestern Blvd., Hamburg NY 14075

Angela : Just another example of how being published in LadyLike can change your life!

Garage Shop Photos Are Great!

I love your magazine! I wish I had known about it the day Issue #1 was released. Recently I decided that I wanted some glamour photographs. I know of no one in NE Ohio who does this. So I grabbed the Yellow Pages and started calling. I found a photographer who works out of his garage and while he does glamour photography he never photographed crossdresser. I spent a wonderful four hours changing dresses, primping, posing and talking. He was a little disappointed when I told him that probably no one else would see the photos. Then I decided to send them to you, Now he can see his work published. I hope you use them. If anyone in NE Ohio wants his name I would be glad to share it.

Cynthia

Cynthia May, NE Ohio, FWD 3296

Roses Have Thorns or Vice Versa?

LL issue #38 is fabulous. The intriguing and revealing Profile on Roxy is great. (I remember the letter in issue #36.) I like her openness plus I wouldn't mind seeing her closet. I always look forward to readers Letter and Mirror Mirror sections. The letters are a valuable way to share thoughts, experiences and aspirations. I particularly noticed the letters from Jeri Jones and Melanie Okubo. Incidentally, thank you for including a letter of mine in the last issue. To quote Jeri Jones, "I can hardly believe how many beautiful ladies are featured in each issue." I agree and speaking of beautiful ladies, the "gorgeous butt" featured on page 47 definitely belongs to the lovely lady featured in the last issue on the upper middle part of page 29. Your editorial was interesting. It's definitely worthwhile to be as sensible as possible concerning any medication including nonprescription drugs (hopefully while encountering helpful health care professional). There's nothing wrong with expressing or enhancing one's sense of femininity but without your health it's at self-defeating. Your statement that "no transgender issue exists in a vacuum" is a reminder of the possible impact (or ripple effect) on our relationships with others-whoever they may be. It reminds me of the song title, "I Never Promised You a Rose Garden," and that roses, as beautiful as they are, unfortunately are accompanied by thorns. Anyway, that's the image that comes to mind. Whether on or out of the closet (to quote Jeri Jones again) "Its always a great comfort to know that we are not alone, but that our vision and needs are also shared by many other." Love, Beverly

Beverly

New Place In Buffalo To Go

I received issue #38 of LadyLike this week. What a great issue. I am so pleased to see my letter in the Letters section. I was beginning to wonder where my letter and pictures I had sent you were going. Hopefully I will see my pictures in the Mirror Mirror section in the next issue. I've enclosed another picture of myself for you to publish if you wish. We

continued on page 13

Pocono 2000

November 2 – 5, 2000 — Come and enjoy a relaxing weekend at a private resort where your security, enjoyment and comfort are of primary concern. We've produced this event for over 10 years and our success is measured by the people who return time after time. One price of $460* includes: 3 nights lodging, 9 meals, 2 receptions, Costume party, Talent Show, Free workshops, tax and gratuity. What else could you need? We have our own DJ, Makeup Artist, Hair Stylist, Nail Tech and more!

Come find out why Paradise In The Poconos is one of the best events you could attend, especially if this is your first time out. Write, call or email us for more information. Visit our WorldWide Web site and register online, or take a look at photos from the last weekend. *Single Occupancy rooms are available for $585.

CDS • PO Box 61263
King of Prussia, PA • 19405
610-640-9449 • FAX 610-648-0257
www.cdspub.com/Poco.html
poco@cdspub.com

Watch Katherine Claire transform Bob into Audrey Live on the World Wide Web

Coming January 1999 → **www.crisscross.net**

Criss/Cross CONSULTANTS
Houston, Texas
(713) 768-2622
email - crscross@insync.net

- Transformations
- Shopping trips
- Glamour photography
- Lessons in femininity
- Personalized video
- Image assessment

Weekend Get-A-Way
Spend the weekend as a woman!
wear attachable breasts* girls day out* makeover* lessons* photos dining and dancing, an 18 hr. female experience you'll never forget!

All Day Get-A-Way
Spend the day as a woman!
makeover* intense lessons* photos* outing...8 hrs. as a woman

Finishing Touch Package
For those who absolutely must pass!
7 hour advanced training* real life test

Do you want breasts like Audrey's?
These attachable silicone breast forms are the highest quality offered anywhere. You can easily purchase them by telephone with your credit card. They will be sent to your address discreetly packaged via UPS. Please know your bra size before calling. Katherine Claire personally guarantees your satisfaction.

Letters...

Jackie

(girls) have a new place in Buffalo to go and "be yourself." Anyone wishing more information can write me and I'll be glad to pass that information along to them. JoAnn, I can't tell you in words how happy I am with your magazine. It's wonderful to be able to share thoughts and read about others who feel the same way I do. In this issue you featured Roxy who is an absolute doll. Not all of us can look as gorgeous as her. But in every one of our hearts we are as beautiful. Keep up the good work girl.

Jackie, PO Box 265, Springville NY 14141-0265

JoAnn comments: Jackie — and everybody else who wants to see their photo on the color pages — when you have your prints made, **do not** choose "silk finish." Always ask for glossy finish. Glossy prints reproduce best.

Wife Did Not Understand

My name is Linda Rose. I have been a crossdresser most of my life. My wife could not understand this and I did not have the courage to tell her. The dear woman passed away about a year ago. I loved her very much. Now I have entered a new and wonderful world of dressing like a woman. I buy very good quality woman's clothes and I feel so good when I am dressed as a woman. I cannot describe how wonderful it is. I have just joined the St. Louis Gender Foundation. I love your magazine and am subscribing. It is so wonderful to be a woman that I could cry. I go in to a plus size store or Fashion Gal Plus and the sales girls treat me like a woman. I love it.

Linda Rose PO Box 4326 St. Louis, MO 63123

Angela responds: While it is great that you enjoy being a woman, it is sad that like many crossdressers you waited till your wife passed away before feeling free enough to explore your femininity. There are many more resources for the education of spouses and significant others available now than ever before. Don't waste time waiting to be free. Try to educate SOs and never push them too hard to accept your dressing on any terms but those you have negotiated between yourselves.

Receives The Nicest Mail

Enclosed are several recent photos. Please feel free to use them in your magazine as you like! I simply

Jessica

love your magazine. The ladies are so beautiful and classy. You have run my picture in Mirror Mirror three times in the past and I receive the nicest mail. I have even met two people through correspondence-a TV sister who I have gone shopping with and a very gentle, but hopelessly romantic man. Keep up the good work!

Jessica, Box 6120-331, Newport Bch CA 92658

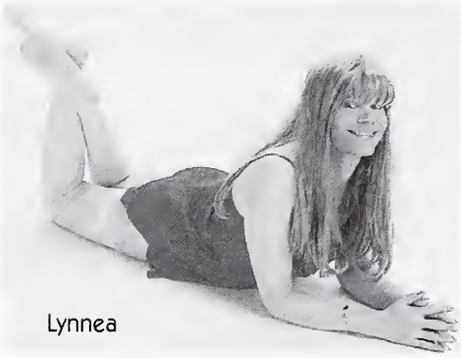
Can't Find Everything Online

I just discovered your magazine when I bought a copy of #38. I was so thrilled because I had been looking for transvestite magazines and no one on chat lines that I had talked with seemed to know where to get them. Speaking of thrills, that's what I get when I look at Roxy and realize that she is a person who can go from being a macho grease monkey to such a beautiful and voluptuous looking woman. I've been interested in crossdressing since I was five years old. I've never been able to pursue it very much however because I've always done it in the closet. Roxy's story struck home because, like her, I too enjoyed wearing my mother's pantyhose. Like her, I often wondered why we as men aren't allowed to wear such silky and beautiful shape giving materials next to our bodies. So one day when I was fourteen or fifteen I couldn't stand it any longer I decided I was going to [do it] anyway. Later I started to wear my wife's pantyhose when I could get away with it. My wife [is] away for six months... I won't be able to see her until she comes home. Now don't get me wrong, I love my wife and I would never cheat on her. It'll be good to see her again in six months, but until then I fully intend to use this opportunity to explore and enjoy my femininity. I would love to correspond with any of your readers who are interested but especially those who live in the New England states of the Canadian Maritime provinces or Eastern Quebec. Eventually I'd like to get together with them or talk with them on the phone or chat lines.

Kathy, minkdoll@yahoo.com

Femme Name A Problem With USPS

I want to inform you that I have moved to the San Francisco Bay area with a new job, and now am on my own with the recent break-up of my marriage. We parted amicably, but she couldn't accept me as an agnostic or a transgender. It was anticipated but the past weeks have been difficult nonetheless. While I haven't connected with a group here yet (I don't even have a phone yet) I don't want to lose track of LadyLike. Thank you for including me in Mirror-Mirror. I got a notebook full of mail and lots of new friends. Angela, what a delightful surprise to see you at California Dreamin' last April! You are fun


Lynnea

to listen to. That alone made the whole trip worth it.

One difficulty I am experiencing is getting a new P.O. Box. While I was permitted to register my femme name as an a.k.a. where I lived before, the practice isn't accepted in my new locale, especially without two forms of identification as Lynnea. I am sure other girls have run into the same problem. This should be a fertile area for the community — how does a girl establish her femme identity? We all have various stories about how we came up with our names but they don't get on birth certificates without a court action. For most, there shouldn't be a need to go that far. How about it, (anyone) should the TG community set up a vital records system? Any thoughts on the legalities? It obviously can't over ride what the states establish but you would think we could work with it. Love and light, Lynnea Stuart lynneastuart@hotmail.com

Angela replies: Be sure to contact TGSF now that you're a Bay Area girl. I was in San Francisco recently and there is a lot for a girl with a red nightie and long blonde hair to do. You were a brunette at Cal Dreamin' '99. Hope you make it to Cal Dreamin' 2000. I might be there. As for the name on the post office box stuff, the postal regulations were set up to stop mail fraud. Strictly speaking, what we do when we set up a femme name on a mailing address is mail fraud. It's not hurting anyone because all the people you get mail from know what's up. There are several ways around it. You can get all

continued on page 15

Leather, Latex, PVC, Vinyl, Rubber, Shoes & Boots, Corsets, Wigs, Hose, Gowns,

and those other things that make life as a woman worthwhile.

A BOUTIQUE FOR ALL WOMEN

Gypsey's
318 W Main St
Norman OK 73069
(405) 360-8762
gypseys@hotmail.com

The Renaissance Transgender Assoc., Inc.
presents

The Transgender Community News

The best in-print source of news about the transgender community and what's going on that affects it.

Only $40 a year for 12 monthly issues. Send cash, check or money order to
Renaissance, 987 Old Eagle School Rd, Suite 719, Wayne PA 19087

Or sign up online at <www.ren.org>

MyLady's Mirror Inc.

Wigs
Large selection of quality
Human hair and Synthetic wigs

Breast Forms
Attachable and Non-Attachable forms

Make-overs
Make-over Packages Available
PA Licensed Cosmotologist
by appointment only

Large Size Fingernails
Wide variety of pre-painted colors

We offer high quality Products and Personalized Service at Unbeatable Prices!

Contact *Heather Anne* at MyLady's Mirror
myladys_mirror@hotmail.com
or visit our shop
The Wig Shoppe
217 Carlisle Street, Hanover, PA 17331
Phone: 717-630-2342
www.myladysmirror.com

Letters...

your femme mail as Box Holder but some places (like CDS Publishing) frown on that because it makes it impossible to trace lost magazines. You can go ahead and tell the post office that you use the femme name to get mail. They don't need to know it's because you crossdress—you could just as easily be a male romance novel writer who uses a female nom de plume. You could (and I know folks who have gone to this length) establish your femme name as a legally registered "also known as." The easiest? Just get your femme mail at your home. In cases where someone has been at an address for years and a new name suddenly appears the postman will sometimes not deliver. If you have just moved in and mail for a femme name starts showing up it will get put right into your mail box and as long as you don't have anyone living with you who doesn't know about your hobby you won't have a problem. Some kind of community "vital records" arrangement would be a waste of time and I'm not certain how that would be accomplished without someone somewhere having your real name and address in a database.

Community Doesn't Deal With Sexuality

(Editor's note: this letter has been significantly edited for length)

I'm a longtime reader of LadyLike and recently picked up issue #39. I thought your editorial was very interesting and raises a provocative question. "Who are these men who admire trannies?" is one that the gender press largely ignores. Personally, I think it's high time the issue of sexuality is openly discussed within the framework of the transgender community. Thank you for having the courage to open a dialogue that will hopefully broaden our understanding of transgender issues.

I have always felt that all questions related to [transgender] sexuality have been universally avoided. Even your publication has historically steered clear of this issue. It's as if all trannies are asexual beings in the sense that they have no physical or emotional needs defined within the context of sexuality. There's a stigma the community has attached to anything even remotely related to sex. Virtually every reference made to crossdressing is quick to point out that most crossdressers are heterosexual. It's sacrilegious to suggest that some CDs might be gay, bi, bi-curious, or experimental. You're considered a traitor to the "cause" if you don't step up to the plate and loudly confirm your heterosexual nature.

Come on people! Get your collective heads out of the sand and stop trying so hard to be accepted by society (and especially spouses, family and friends) as "normal."

I'm not about to suggest that all, or even the majority, of TG folks are gay or bi, but I'm firmly convinced that the number is far greater than popular opinion would have us believe. Why is this? I'm quite certain there are several underlying causes. The largest single factor, in what I view as a sense of collective denial, is the universal desire for acceptance. Everyone wants to be wanted. No one wants to be shunned or left feeling alone and rejected.

By varying degrees and at a varied pace we (CD, TV, TS, choose your favorite label) eventually come to grips with the fact that we are transgendered. Once we admit to ourselves that we are "differently gendered," we begin to more fully enjoy our desire to express and explore our femininity. Once we admit the true depth of our desire to walk this path, we find the journey is infinitely more pleasurable if shared with other people. We reach out to other like-minded folks by attending conventions, joining local trans social clubs, and going to support groups. Some even seek solace in therapy where they're almost always assured that they're not sick, perverted or weird. In fact, we're comforted to learn that we're normal. We're "gender blessed." The company line is basically: "As long as you're not hurting yourself or someone else, then it's okay to pursue your 'hobby.'"

But behind all this support, all this affirmation, and all this feel good therapy, lies a conspiracy of denial. We announce to the world that we love to crossdress, but we deny our sexuality. Even while admitting that we love all things related to feminine expression, we are insistent [to] everyone willing to listen, that we're redblooded, American, heterosexuals under all that lingerie, makeup, and ladylike apparel. We want acceptance so badly that we're willing to "neuter" ourselves in the process. We've neutralized our sexuality (regardless of sexual preference) in an attempt to be more acceptable to those we've come out to.

What's the first thing that a female significant other asks or thinks when their male partner comes out to them as a crossdresser? I'll bet in almost every case it's, "Are you gay?" Never mind what our real feelings are, if this female SO has any permanent place in our future there's no way we're prepared or willing to go any further into our hidden fantasy world. It's only in the secret, private world of make believe where we allow ourselves to go out on dates with men (after hours spent in glorious, sensual preparation). It's only in these hidden daydreams that we visualize going to the prom with the football captain, or donning a glowing white wedding dress and walking down the church aisle to meet our handsome groom.

Many of us can't admit the fantasies to ourselves, let alone our significant others. It's enough of a battle getting them to accept our desire to crossdress that we can't risk clouding the issue with admissions regarding sexuality. As such, most trannies continue to chant the mantra: Crossdressers are not gay. Crossdressers are not bi. Crossdressers are not curious. Crossdressers are all heterosexual.

It's as if by keeping issues of sexuality out of the dialogue, acceptance will be easier to gain. Let's be honest, despite all the strides that the gay community has achieved, total acceptance and inclusion [for gays] is probably still several decades away. To openly admit that you're gay, or bi, or even questioning your own sexual orientation, is not something that's likely to go unnoticed by friends, family and coworkers. Straight society and culture still aren't ready for total candor with regard to sexual preference.

I apologize for rambling on so. I'll close for now, but not before warning you. I really like the content and thought provoking aspects of your editorials, especially the last one. If you can put up with another letter (I don't do email) from me, I'd love to share with you my personal journey of discovery. I'm still a work-in-progress, so I don't know where my saga will lead me or where it will end. All I know is, the answers are out there and it's not enough to just dream. I need to experiment and do it. (With apologies to your editorial tag line.)

Sincerely, Terri Connor

JoAnn replies: Just so you know, Terri, letters that arrive by email or those that are neatly typed so they can be scanned get first priority. Hand written letters like yours generally are left until last because of the difficulty in reading handwriting and the time it takes to type them in. However, your letter brought up some very important issues and we felt it was worth the time to retype it.

Angela will follow with her response below, but I want to state for the record that LadyLike has never shied away from issues of transgender sexuality. Indeed, one of the reasons I was moved to get involved in the transgender community was because of the whitewashing of sexual issues.

Angela replies: You seem to be agreeing with me but you also seem to be taking a shot at heterosexual CDs. They're also products of our western society, which is the most up tight society on the planet when it comes to dealing with any kind of sex, let alone a man who is turned on by wearing women's clothes, or a man who wants to have sex with another man. Living where we do you can't expect an SO to react with anything but worry that she may lose you because you may be gay because you want to crossdress.

If you have fantasy sex with men in the privacy of your own mind (which is much less of a hassle) and never act out that behavior for real, that's okay. Most CDs have the fantasies you outline in your letter. They're romantic fantasies of what we are told it's like to be a woman. They're the kind of fantasies that teenage girls might have. Going on a romantic date with a guy isn't the same thing as having sex with him. If your fantasies are all about the clothes and being treated like a lady, and not the sex, then you're not necessarily gay. But, I always say a CD's heterosexuality depends on how many drinks she's had.

If you pursue your fantasy into reality, you may have to barter sex for what you really want, to be treated like a woman. If you are single, not in a relationship, and are bi-curious, go ahead and date a man. Don't write long letters about it. If you find it sexually satisfying, great. If not, then you'll know that isn't what you want. There are only two things to avoid, sexually transmitted disease and hurting someone you care about. Now get out there and wear a sexy outfit, if you expect to get any action.

Confused & Frustrated

JoAnn, I hope you do not mind that I am writing to you. I know you have been very active with the gender community for a long time. I wrote a similar letter to Denise Mason. I just joined CTView recently. I used to subscribe to your TG Forum on the Internet

Letters...

but ended up totally confused and frustrated with my computer. I am in need of support and am willing to give it back in return. I am now 33 years old. I live in the Berkshire mountains in the town of Pittsfield. I am aware that there are local groups around my area. I have sent out letters of inquiry to T.G.I.C. in Albany, T.C.N.E. in Waltham, C.O.S. in Connecticut and Renaissance in your state of Pennsylvania. I also tried the Sunshine Club in my state of Massachusetts which is near Hadley-Amherst. I have not heard from them either. I am interested in writing to others to others in the community. I am a disabled individual so I am always looking for some new contacts. I am interested in your LadyLike magazine. I am sending you a money order so that I can receive 4 issues.

I hope you do not mind me saying that I have always envied a person such as yourself. You go out as JoAnn, you seem to carry yourself very well. You seem very confident. I struggle with all these things. Still, I am a worthwhile person with feeling just like anyone else. There was a time several years ago when I was starting to get connected in the community. That came to a screeching halt after I met my now ex-girlfriend. She was around from '95-'97. I have dressed very little since as a result. I have a post-op friend who continues to tell me that "you'll shave your body and put on makeup again. It's just a matter of time." She says it will just happen. I was hoping to get exposed to girls who might like to write. Perhaps you have access to a list of gals who might be interested? While my ad was online I was surprised (at) just how little mail it generated. My email was not even that great. I guess I got spoiled when I was first exposed to the gender world around 1989. My PO box was almost always full of new mail for the first couple of years.

I would very much like to attend a TG function some day in the near future. This is really not easy for me. I am on disability income. My wardrobe does not exist anymore. I do not know where I can purchase clothing without hassles. Shopping online is impossible for me because I do not possess a credit card. I really live day to day and do the things that I thoroughly enjoy. I fish a lot, I walk around in the woods a lot, and I exercise nearly every day. I hope you will at least read this letter and send me your LadyLike magazine. I do realize that you have a very full life. I hope to hear from you soon. Affectionately yours, Diana.

Diana Dwyer, Mass., Fwd 3858

Angela replies: I knew that your name was familiar and sure enough, I found it in the latest edition of the Renaissance PenPal Program list. Apparently you did get through to them after you wrote to us. (The PPP is available to anyone who likes to write to other TGs. PenPal c/o Renaissance, 987 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 719, Wayne, PA 19087.) As for local groups, try giving the Sunshine Club a call at 413-586-5004. I can only imagine that the groups did not respond because either they changed addresses or they were, as is the unfortunate case with many groups, they are being run by one or two overworked folks who just can't get back to everyone. Or they did get back to you but not till after you sent your letter to us. Good luck and I hope you make it to a TG event soon.

JoAnn responds: If you really want to go to a national TG event but can't afford the full registration fee, check to see if the event you want to attend has scholarships. Some events will reduce the registration fee in exchange for work you do for them at the event.

Check Me On The Net

Thanks so much for renewing my subscription to your classy magazine! After sampling many of the TG publications in the market today, LadyLike is defi-

nitely the "best of the best!" I don't quite understand the direction of some of the other magazines toward the pornographic side. What I do enjoy is the class and elegance of LadyLike! I try to emulate this same image, as you can see in my enclosed photograph. I would be honored to be included in a future publication. Please also check out my website at <http://members.tgforum.com/Kellyh>. Keep up the great work! Sincerely, Kelly Hansen Redmond, WA

Angela: Don't thank us doll, you renew when you send us the money. Thanks for supporting LadyLike. With out our readers we're nothing but a couple of broads with nothing to do. Stay classy.

Looking For PenPals

Here are some photos of me with two different types of makeup. A few years ago I never thought

that I would send photos to a magazine, much less of me looking like this. Why not, we only live once in one lifetime. I am in this for pen pals and not for all that wild sex or kinkiness. As I tell the gals who I write to, don't let me be a wet blanket, and to each his own. That other is not my cup of tea. I am just a closeted household CD. A few years ago I would just be a square. Who knows what my type of CD is called now. I love your magazine. You girls show good class and quality and I bet that you and your staff take pride in your work. Other than the professionals, at least I know that I am not the only CD out there. Take care and keep up the good work. Sincerely, Jane

Angela: Well, Jane, I got into it for the kinkiness and but I just can't seem to stop being classy and elegant. Seriously, thanks for your compliments Jane. As my friend Dina Amberle says, you would be a "common, garden variety crossdresser." Nothing wrong with that as long as you're enjoying yourself. Have fun.

Wishes We'd Go Monthly

Thank God for LadyLike! It is far and away the best CD mag on the market. I just wish others would study your format and shamelessly imitate it. I also wish you'd seriously consider becoming a monthly.

I just received my latest issue and I'm already yearning for more. Here are a couple of my latest pics. Last time I showed up in your gallery of babes was issue #36 and it would be a great honor to find myself amongst those lovely ladies once again. Love, Lillian Louisville, KY

JoAnn & Angela reply: While imitation is the sincerest form of flattery we prefer that other magazines continue to do exactly what they're doing. If they imitated LadyLike they might become as successful as we are and then we'd have serious competition. So, just keep quiet about that idea, okay hon? If you are yearning for more, we recommend that you finish reading our publication, put it on your coffee table, go touch up your makeup and then... read it again! Thanks for your support, and nice car, doll.

Paradise In The Poconos 99

▲ What do they have in common? All have been on the cover of LadyLike!

▲ Oy! Now 'ats a bit 'o Baby Spice if ever der was!

◀ Two Princesses and a Queen. That's Diane Dale between Amanda Richards (l) and Sarah Thomas (r)

▼ (l. to r.) Joanne L., Michelle Lynn, and Diane Dale

▲ l. to r.: Linda K., Tamara M. & Carrie Gordon ham it up in the pub.

More Hot New Styles from
Affordable Fantasies & Illusions

CHECK OUT THE SPECTACULAR SAVINGS BELOW ! **We at Affordable Fantasies & Illusions, have created a FANTASTIC clothing line especially made to fit crossdressers perfectly (Slimmer hips, Longer arms, Wider shoulders, higher necklines, and longer garment lengths). We used TV models to create our clothing line. You will be pleasantly surprised when you receive your garment because it will fit you well. We are leaving a two inch hem in the sleeves and the hemlines so our tall customers can let the hem down These are some of our new fall pieces and we will be adding more pieces in the spring. Our clothing is offered from chest size: 36 - 50 and waist size: 26 - 44 unless indicated. Order our catalog to see our full clothing line and full line of products including wigs, TV Videos, more breastforms, heels, stocking, lingerie, cosmetics, corsets, adult novelties and much more *(catalog cost only $4.00)*.**
To order any clothing in this ad simply provide your chest and waist measurement below and we will send you the correctly sized piece. Take advantage of our sale prices now.

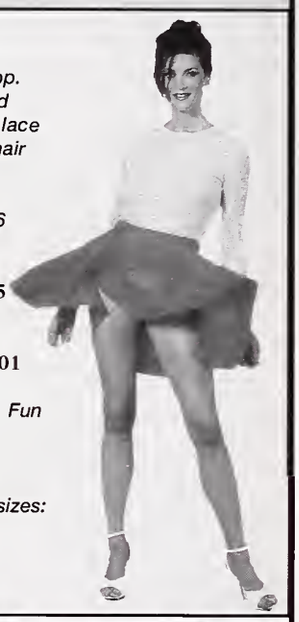
Style DR04
New for the Fall & Winter! Simply luxurious long gown with sexy, high slit on the leg. Fits height 5'8" - 6'2". Made in soft poly in Black and also in burgundy stretch velvet.
(Avail. chest 34 - 50, waist 26 - 44)
Colors: Black, Burgundy
Sale Price: Less than 43 chest:
$ 66.95
Over 44 chest:
$ 69.99

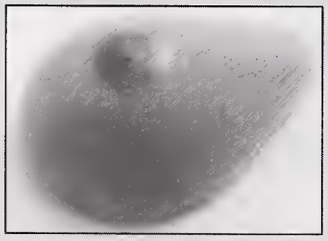
Dress
Style EMP01
Great New Fun Style. Empire Style Dress with cute flair bottom. Moves and swings with you ! Made in slinky material. Very feminine and flattering to any figure.
(Avail. chest 34 - 50, waist 26 - 44)
Colors: Red or Black
Sale Price: Less than 43 chest
Only $ 67.95
44 chest & over
Only $ 69.95

Style WRP01
Fun new hot wrap Style Dress. Smooth fabric wraps over or under the bust & gathers at the waist. Made in a smooth poly knit.
Color: Black
Sale Price: Less than 43 chest: **Only $62.25**
44 chest & over: **Only $64.75**

BLOUSE
Style TP01
New Lace top. Fits tight and sexy. Dense lace pattern for hair coverage.
Fits Chest Sizes 36 - 46
Colors: Black,White
Price:$34.95

SKIRT
Style SWG01
Great Circle Swing Skirt. Fun and Flirty !
Colors: Black, Red
Avail. waist sizes: 26 - 42
Price only: $33.75





Breastforms on Sale !!

We are now having our 100% silicone breastforms custom made. We have improved their durability, made them even softer and bouncier, and they now have a specially-formed, hardened raised nipple that is built into the form. It is even raised enough that you can see it show through a thin t-shirt ! We have also added a matte finish to the breastform so that they will match your skin better . Our new forms look extremely natural on your body - we know you will love them! We are currently offering the BFCLT (teardrop shape) on sale. They are offered in the nude color shown above. When ordering please specify your chest size (ex: ordering a 38fullC or 42regD etc) Our Breastforms are offered in the following sizes:
BFCLT: Reg B, Full B, Reg C, Full C, Reg D, Full D, DD
Price for the pair: Sale price $278.15
Price for the pair with Adhesive and remover so you can wear them braless! Sale price $ 298.95

Amazing New Ultra-Realistic Vagina!!

You can now completely finish off your feminine look! We are now offering the most realistic latex vagina ever! Our piece is carefully sculpted in the front to look amazingly true to life ! You will not believe how realistic it looks on! This piece is put together extremely well - you will be totally satisfied. We offer it in a medium nude skin tone and in two hair colors: Dark brown or Med/light Brown. You must specify your waist size when ordering (28" - 42" only)

(#ULVG01) **Price $86.75**

Our Classic Waist Slimmer and our Gaff !

Style WC03 - Satin Waist Slimmer with lace insets. Pulls in your waist to create a more feminine figure. Order 2 - 4 inches smaller than your waist. Sizes: 26 - 38 Color: Black **Price $ 32.95**
Style # Gaff - Satin Gaff. Every cross-dresser needs one! Our custom design smooths out your front genital area. Matches the waist Slimmer (as shown above) Sizes: 26 - 38 Colors: Black, White
Price $ 28.25

Order Here or at our Website: **http://www.crossdress.net**

Style #	Color	Size	Price
		Shipping	
		Total	

Shipping costs: $50 -$100 add $7.00.
$100 - $300 add $10.00.
Over #300 add $14.00

LL40

If paying by Mail use Postal Money Order for Fastest Delivery.
Make Checks/ Money Orders payable to BEST VALUE PRODUCTS.

Visa/MC/Disc # _____
Exp Date _____
Name _____
Address _____
_____
City _____ State____ Zip_____

Best Value Products • PO Box 156 • Wyncote • PA • 19095
215-782-9025 Fax:215-782-9180 E-mail: bvp@p3.net

▼ Andrea Susan tries her hand at stand-up comedy.

▲ The Spicey Girls returned for a second year (photo by Diane Dale).

Paradise In The Poconos '99

Donna does country in the talent show ▼

▲ Rebecca Finn knocks 'em dead as always.

Denise Mason gets everyeveryone giggling with her Mrs. Miller routine. ▼

Tambor Sharon Haven is having a FABULOUS time! ▼

All photos this page by Denise Mason except as noted

Paradise In The Poconos 99

photo by Denise Mason

▲ Contestants for the "Denise Mason Invitational" Big-Hair Contest. Guess who won – Sandy K, second from left.

photo by Sandy K

▲ Diane Dale and Sandy compare 'do's.

photo by Denise Mason

▲ Morgan Stevens was one of the Big-Hair judges

photo by Sandy K

(l. to r.) Sarah Thomas, Sandy K, and Rebecca Finn ▼

photo by Sandy K

Kelly Sheridan is our Mistress of the Night for the costume contest ▼

photo by Denise Mason

Carnival night
- Costume contest
- Big Hair contest

◀ Sarah Thomas entertains during the Phantasie Pholliez with an original song

▶ Diane Dale does a turn as Annie Lennox during the show.

◀ Ali lipsynchs to "Dance 10, Looks 3" from A Chorus Line.

▶ Morgan Stevens as Ann Margret

The 1999 Court, (in back) Ms. Ingenue; Amanda Grae, Ms. Sophistication; and Alison M., Ms. Congeniality; (in front) Princess Sarah Thomas. ▼

Showtime!

99 Phantasie Pholliez

The Princess & her court

Your publisher and Pocono hostess, JoAnn Roberts ▼

©2000 Tomi Gion, LTD. ALL RIGHT RESERVED. PO Box 2450, Alexandrai, VA 22301

tg Tomi Gion, LTD
cosmetics.com

HERE YOU'LL FIND HOW TO CREATE THE FABULOUS STYLES OF THE GREATEST BEAUTIES OF ALL TIMES WITH A FULL LINE OF THE BEST COSMETICS THE INTERNET HAS TO OFFER.

VISIT TGCOSMETICS.COM AND ENJOY THE BEAUTY AND ELEGANCE OF LIVING AS A SPECIAL WOMAN

COSMETICS, BATH PRODUCTS AND GIFT BOXES AVAILABLE

Studio Lites

Head-To-Toe Transformation Specialists

Over 5000 Square Feet of Retail Space!

A SAFE, DISCRETE, PRIVATE and CONFIDENTIAL place to shop!

Bianca & Morganna

Wigs (Over 14 Companies Represented)
Breast Forms (5 Companies Represented)
Heels (Large Selection and Sizes)

Clothing (Sexy Dresses to Custom Designs)
Corsets/Gaffs
Maids Uniforms
Pettie Coats/Sissy Pants
Lingerie/Hosiery/Undergarments
Gloves/Boas
Cosmetics
Rhinestones/Jewelry
Adult Magazines/Toys/Videos
Excursions
Make-overs
Photography Studio

We offer two convenient ways of servicing your needs!

Our Retail Store – 333 N. Broadway, Denver CO 80203, (303) 733-7797, Fax (303) 733-7997

Our Web Site – http://www.studiolites.com, E-mail - WigGuys@aol.com

Mirror Mirror

▲ Adrian, Colo., adrian@tgforum.com

▲ Darla, Colo.

▲ Rhonda, Wash.

Missy, Texas
transformer_4_u@hotmail.com ▼

▲ Janet, Manitoba, Canada

▼ June, New York

Dee, Mich. ▶

▼ Jan

▼ Roberta, Pa. FWD3231

Send Us
Your Photo!

Mirror Mirror

▲ a coupla more pix of Julie Phillips. ►

▲ Candy, SWVa.

▲ Helene Kaym Ill. FWD3681

▼ Christina, NC FWD3758

Cena Williams, NY
FWD2710 ▼

Sean Briscoe, 21 Riverside Ave,
Norwalk CT 06850 ▼

Send Your Photos!

▲ Roxanne Van Ness,
Quebec, Canada

▼ Stephanie, Texas FWD3196

▲ Valerie Bader, Seattle, Wash
FWD3857

▲ J.B., PO Box 24021, Tempe
AZ 85285-4021

Elaine, Ind.
FWD2787 ▼

JoAnn Worth, PO Box 1776,
Tempe AZ 85280 ▼

▶
Wendy, NY
FWD3374

A continuing series of thought provoking articles by Brenda Lawrence.

Not Just Another Friday

Normally writers never date their material so that when you actually sit down and read it, it seems fresh and current as if just written days earlier. In truth, much of what you read is actually written many months in advance, mostly due to the printing schedules magazines have. So when a writer wishes you a Merry Christmas, for example, he might be sweating bullets on a hot July day as he pens those thoughts. Well, I'm going to break that rule and tell you that today (actually tonight - it's 10:59 pm) is November 12, 1999, and it's been one helluva day.

Just to reference the time, the big news is that EgyptAir crash and the infamous black boxes—they still haven't found the voice recorder yet. Probably by the time you read this, it will be a vague memory... unless the pilots committed suicide as they suspect today. In my own world, I've got a full plate. A lot has been going on in my life lately and it's almost overwhelming. My wife and I have been dealing with a home remodeling addition for four months that was supposed to be finished in a month and a half. It probably would have been if the workers showed up two days in a row. My 85 year-old mother has been in the hospital for three weeks, and we were told then by the doctors that the outlook was dim. Pancreatic cancer is like that.

Today, I celebrated my 46th year of working at my repair shop by fixing a bunch of broken cars. No fanfare, just get 'em done so the customers can go home that afternoon and grumble to their spouses about the high cost of fixing their computerized econoboxes that cost them $30,000 in the first place. In other words, it's just another Friday. Can you imagine, 46 years in the same business? Today, 4 to 6 years at a job is a long time. I started out sweeping up the floors and generally cleaning up around the place. Graduated to doing small repairs, oil changes and tire repairs after school, then went to work as a mechanic after graduating from school. I was able to buy the business at age 27 and here I am today. After taking care of the last customer tonight, I swept the floors and generally cleaned up the place for Monday morning. I've come a long way in 46 years, huh!

It was also just a year ago today that I admitted to myself that I'm more than a crossdresser. I'm sure everyone of us has fantasized about being a woman or living as a woman. I remember as a 9 year old dreaming of waking up and finding that I had turned into a girl overnight, or wishing that I could somehow become a girl. But then the years go by and you think about it less and less as you build a life for yourself. Sometime near the middle of 1998 I started thinking about it again. With my desire to become a passable crossdresser accomplished, I found myself looking towards "the next step". At first, I thought it to be just a fantasy like before, but soon found that I couldn't get the idea of living as a woman out of my head. I was really enjoying my time out in public as a woman. I loved seeing my pictures in LadyLike and getting complimentary letters from other CDs. I liked being a woman... a lot!

By the time November of '98 rolled around, I was thinking more and more of going "all the way." I didn't need that "thing" between my legs anymore, as my wife and I hadn't had sex in years. We did the hugs and kisses and have been best friends. Plus, the female hormones I've been using have all but killed the desire for sex. On November 12th last year I wrote a letter to another crossdresser and stated that I was a transsexual. I haven't changed that thinking since. My wife and I have talked about it—and still do, but I promised her I'll never go through with it as long as we are married. We intend to stay married—till death do us part—just like we promised each other over 36 years ago. But I can't stop thinking about it.

Just imagine, 46 years, I'm still cleaning up the place and my mother never found out about my crossdressing. Sure, there were a few close calls, but I always got away with it. Like the time she found a bra in the back of my sock drawer (why did I think that was a safe place?) and blamed it on my elderly grandmother who often got clothing items mixed up (whew!). Later on, there was just no need to tell mom. Why destroy the image of a son who grew up without a father, married a wonderful girl, raised a family and made a success of himself by buying his own business? We all got along great and mom nearly raised our daughter while we fought to keep our son alive through his serious medical problems for so many years. I worked long, hard hours to keep ahead of the bills, and my wife spent endless hours at

the hospital with tests, dialysis treatments, and surgeries for our ailing son.

This desire to go through a sex change got so bad, that by January of 1999 I decided to shut down my dressing activities in hopes of clearing my head. I forced myself to not dress again till I got over this silly thinking. What could I be thinking, to jeopardize my family, friends and businesses by such a stunt? I lasted till September 1999 when I went on that date with another crossdresser from New York (LadyLike #40). I thought it would be fun, and I felt I had my transsexual desires under control. It was a lot of fun, but in retrospect it only increased my desire to live as a woman. So I've stopped dressing once again. The battle rages on.

Do you know that mom had to sign for my marriage license because I was only 20 when I got married? She even loaned my wife and I the down payment on our first house, though I repaid that a thousand times by keeping her car running, fixing up things around her house, running errands—you know, the steady stream of things you do for your mom. Heck, look at what she had to go through raising me, my brother and sister all those years! I was a typical kid, except for this crossdressing thing. It's hard to believe she turned 85 this past September. She was still driving her Buick all over, running her girlfriends to the Senior Center, or to the bingo hall. Mom's two big passions were the Chicago Cubs and bingo. My big passion was her "to-die-for" banana cream pie.

Like I said at the beginning of this story, today is November 12th, a very rotten day in my life. At just past 1:00 pm Mom died and I haven't felt like crying till now.

Rachel's Hair & Wig Salon

1833 West Irving Park Road
Chicago, Illinois 60613
773-528-6960

Visit us on the net
www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Park/8607
or contact us by email at:
msrachel@megisnet.net
We carry a full selection of:
Wigs and Wig
Accessories
Jewelry &
Breast forms....
and we do
Professional
Makeovers

Lola, Inc.
The Breast Form Specialist

Create a new you for the new year!

Our two most popular wigs, Tiara and Radiance, are now available at a reduced price of $60 each (regularly $95 - $100). Choose from blonde, brunette, red, or black.
(Limited quantities available, offer good while supplies last.)

Tiara - W1307

Radiance - W1306

Send $5 (US) for our catalog!
Make Checks payable to:
Lola, Inc.
PO Box 1001
Lansdale, PA 19446
phone: 800-FOR-LOLA
phone in PA: 215-855-5441
fax: 215-855-4872

Visit Our Online Store at http://www.lolainc.com/

VISA/Mastercard accepted. For fastest order processing please pay by US Postal Service Money Order. Personal checks require 10 days for processing.

Mirror Mirror

The CyberBabes

▲ Rachel Storm, Hawaii
rwildstorm@hotmail.com

▲ Tamara
TVTamara@netscape.net

▲ Gina Martine, S. Calif.
gina_martine@geocities.com

▲ Laura, N. Calif.
LRC48@aol.com

▲ Darlene, Ga.
WF7100@aol.com

▲ Lynnea Stuart
LynneaStuart@hotmail.com

▲ Sherry Renee, Ga.
kittykatx9@aol.com

◄ Marci Williams, St. Louis
marci18@juno.com

▲ Donna, KS FWD3854

▲ Daphne Thomas, Mich. FWD2549

▲ Priscilla, Chicago FWD107

◄ Jayne Otto, Rt1 Box 31-G1, Philomath OR 97370 otto@casco.net

The Ladies In Red

▲ Cynthia May, Ohio FWD3296

Jessica M, PO Box 6120-331, NB CA 92658 ▼

Jeri Jones, POBox 9215, SLC UT 84109 ▼

North American Support Groups

National US Membership Organizations

International Foundation for Gender Education, PO Box 540229, Waltham, MA 02454. Publishes Transgender Tapestry ($40/year subscription). Reprints and books on TV/TS subjects, other info. Hosts annual conference in different locations around the country. Phone: 617-899-2212. <ifge@ifge.org><www.ifge.org>

Renaissance Education Association, Inc., 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, Pa. 19087. 610-975-9119 24 hr. answering machine, but phones are answered personally on Monday and Thursday evenings. Membership fee of $40 includes the monthly publication *Transgender Community News*. Also publishes Background Papers and Community Outreach Bulletins on transgender issues for personal and professional use. Speakers available for classroom, corporate, or media discussions of transgender issues. Renaissance currently has four chapters and seven affiliates. Affiliates are noted with "(!)" in the list below. Renaissance is a 501[c][3] non-profit membership organization. <angela@ren.org> <www.ren.org>

Society for the Second Self (SSS), Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275. Focused on families and relationships. Tri-Ess publishes the Femme Mirror quarterly and hosts an annual convention. Tri-Ess chapters are marked with "#" in the list below. Tri-Ess is a non-profit membership organization. <jeftris@aol.com>

Alaska
Alaska T People, c/o Bobbie Wendy Tucey, PO Box 670349, Chugiak, AK 99567

Alabama
Madison County Gender Center, c/o MCC 3015 Sparkman Dr NW, Huntsville, AL 35810

Arizona
Alpha-Zeta (#), PO Box 1738, Tempe, AZ 85280

A Rose, PO Box 8108, Glendale, AZ 85280-8108

Tau Upsilon(#), 8802 E. Broadway Blvd. #145, Tucson, AZ 85710

California
Alpha Chapter(#), PO Box 36091, Los Angeles, CA 90036

Androgyny, PO Box 480740, Los Angeles, CA 90048

Born Free, PO Box 52829, Riverside, CA 92517

CHIC, PO Box 8487, Long Beach, CA 90808

Diablo Valley Girls, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885

Gender Expressions, PO Box 816, Lakewood, CA 90714-0816

Ladies Knight Out, PO Box 19608-179, Irvine, CA 92713

Neutral Corner, PO Box 19008, San Diego, CA 92159

Powder Puffs of California, PO Box 1088, Yorba Linda, CA 92886

Rainbow Gender Association, PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170-0730

Sacramento Gender Assoc., PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456

Sigma Sigma Beta, Tri-Ess, PO Box 19933, So. Lake Tahoe, CA 96151

TGSF, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142

Thursday Irregulars, c/o Joan Sheldon, PO Box 6541, San Jose, CA 95150-6541

Tri Chi (#), PO Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

Colorado
Delta (#) PO Box 16208, Denver, CO 80216-6208

Gender Identity Center of Colorado, Inc., 1455 Ammons St., Suite 100, Lakewood, CO 80215-4993

Pueblo TV/TS Support Group, 1144 Clarmont, Pueblo, CO 81004-2808

Connecticut
Connecticut Outreach Society, PO Box 163, Farmington, CT 06034

connecticuTView, PO Box 2281, Devon, CT 06460

Twenty (XX) Club Inc., PO Box 387, Hartford, CT 06141-0387

District of Columbia
Washington-Baltimore Alliance, PO Box 50724, Washington, D.C. 20091-0724

Delaware
Renaissance (!), Delaware Chapter, PO Box 5656, Wilmington DE 19808

Florida
Animas, PO Box 420309, Miami FL 33242

Gamma Chi Beta (#), PO Box 510045, Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0045

Mu Beta Gamma (#), PO Box 4126, Hialeah, FL 33014

North Florida Sisters (NFS), PO Box 5765, Jacksonville, FL 32247

Phi Epislon Mu (#), PO Box 3261, Winter Park FL 32790-3261

Tau Lambda (#), PO Box 3426, Tallahassee, FL 32315-3426

The Ladies Club of Florida (TLC), P.O. Box 372711, Satellite Beach, FL 32937

Trans Alliance of Gainesville, PO Box 143102, Gainesville, FL 32614-3102

Georgia
Sigma Epsilon (#), PO Box 272, Rosewell, GA 30077-0272

AGE(!), PO Box 267, Powder Springs, GA 30127

Hawaii
Hawaii Transgender Outreach, PO Box 4530, Honolulu, HI 96812

Iowa
Central Illinois Gender Assoc., PO Box 1925, Clinton, IA 52733-1925

Iowa Artistry, PO Box 75, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

River City Gender Alliance, PO Box 680, Council Bluffs, IA 51502-0680

Idaho
Idaho Transgender Society, PO Box 7353, Boise, ID 83707-1353

Illinois
Chi (#), PO Box 40, Wood Dale, IL 60191-0040

Chicago Gender Society (!), PO Box 578005, Chicago, IL 60657

Indiana
IXE, PO Box 20710, Indianpolis IN 46250

Transgender Outreach of N. Indiana, Ltd., PO Box 2372, Portage, IN 46368

Kansas
KCCAF (Kansas City Crossdressers & Friends), PO Box 4092, Overland Park, KS 66204

Wichita Transgender Alliance, PO Box 3002, Wichita, KS 67201-3002

Kentucky
BlueGrass Belles, PO Box 20173, Louisville, KY 40250

Louisana
Gulf Gender Alliance)!), (a Renaissance Chapter) PO Box 56836, New Orleans, LA 70156-6836

Massachusetts
Sunshine Club, PO Box 564, Hadley, MA 01035

TG Support, 36 Alpine Rd, Wayland, MA 01778

Tiffany Club of New England, Inc., PO Box 71, Waltham MA 02454-0071

Maryland
The Bridge Club, c/o Michelle Gerald, PO Box 11737, Baltimore, MD 21206-0337

Tri-State Transgendered Club, c/o Diane Terrant, PO Box 1994, Silver Spring, MD 21550-1002

Maine
Maine Gender Resource & Support, c/o Jean Churchill, PO Box 1894, Bangor, ME 04402-1894

Transsupport, PO Box 17622, Portland, ME 04101

Michigan
Crossroads, PO Box 1245, Royal Oak, MI 48068

Friends North, Inc., PO Box 562, Traverse City, MI 49685-0562

IME of Western Michigan, PO Box 1153, Grand Rapids, MI 49501

Minnesota
Beta Gamma (#), PO Box 8591, Minn., MN 55408

City of Lakes Crossgender Community, PO Box 16265, Minneapolis MN 55416

Minnesota Freedom of Gender Expression, PO Box 17945, St. Paul, MN 55117

Missouri
St. Louis Gender Foundation, PO Box 9433, St. Louis, MO 63117

Mississippi
Beta Chi (#), PO Box 31253, Jackson, MS 39286

North Carolina
Carolina Transensual Alliance (CTA), 112 Edwardia, Greensboro, NC 27409

Kappa Beta, Tri-Ess, PO Box 12101, Charlotte, NC 28220-2101

Phoenix Transgender Support, PO Box 18332, Asheville, NC 28814

Sigma Rho Delta (#), PO Box 61406, Raleigh,NC 27661

Tau Gamma, PO Box 25282, Raleigh, NC 27611

Triad Gender Association, PO Box 2264, Jamestown, NC 27282-2264

Nebraska
River City Gender Alliance, PO Box 8076, Omaha, NE 68108-0076

Nevada
Equinox, 8175 S Virginia, Suite 850-256, Reno, NV 89511-8981

Transgender Support Las Vegas, Community Counseling Center, 1120 Almond Tree Lane, Las Vegas, NV

New Jersey
Chi Delta Mu (#), PO Box 1, River Edge, NJ 07661-0001

Monmouth Ocean Transgender (!), (a Renaissance Chapter), PO Box 2972, Princeton, NJ 08543-2972

NJ Support, PO Box 0034, Montville, NJ 07045

Sigma Nu Rho (#), 1092 St. Georges Ave., Suite 234, Rahway, NJ 07065-2664

New Mexico
Phi (Fiesta!)(#), 8200 Montgomery NE, #241, Albuquerque, NM 87109

New York
Buffalo Belles, PO Box 1701, Amherst, NY 14226

CD•Network, PO Box 92055, Rochester, NY 14692

Lambda Chi Lambda (#), PO Box 1010, Cooperstown, NY 13326

Metropolitan Gender Network, 561 Hudson St., Box 45, New York, NY 10014

TGIC, PO Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212-3604

Transgender Network, PO Box 1611 South Road Annex, PoughKeepsie, NY 12601-0611

Ohio
Alpha Omega (#), PO Box 2053, Sheffield Lake, OH 44054-0053

Crossport, PO Box 1692, Cincinnati, OH 45204

Crystal Club, PO Box 287, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Paradise Club, PO Box 29564, Cleveland, OH 44129

Oregon
Intermountain Transgender Outreach, 1524 Monroe Ave., La Grande, OR 97850

North West Gender Alliance, PO Box 4928, Portland, OR 97208

Rho Gamma (#), PO Box 5551, Grants Pass, OR 97527

Trans-Port, P.O. Box 66913, Portland, OR 97290

Pennsylvania
Erie Sisters, 1903 West 8th St #261, Erie, PA 16505

Renaissance(!), Philadelphia, 987 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 719, Wayne, PA 19087

Renaissance(!), Lower Susquehanna Valley, PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2122

Transpitt, PO Box 3214, Pittsburgh, PA 15230

Tennessee
Memphis TransGender Alliance, PO Box 11232, Memphis, TN 38111-0232

Tennessee Vals, PO Box 92335, Nashville, TN 37209

Texas
Alpha Tau (#), PO Box 2753, Cedar Park, TX 78630-2753

Central Texas Transgender Society, PO Box 195, Spicewood, TX 78669

Epsilon Tau (#), PO Box 945, New Waverly, TX 77358

Gulf Coast Transgender Community, PO Box 90335, Houston, TX 77090

Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous, 6804 E Hiway 6 S #334, Houston, TX 77083

Metroplex CD Club, PO Box 141924, Irving, TX 75014-1924

Nu Epsilon Tau (#), PO Box 14096, Pantego, TX 76094

Spouses & Partners International Conference for Education (SPICE), Peggy Rudd, c/o 8880 Bellaire B2 #104, Houston, TX 77036

West Texas Gender Alliance, c/o Tami Maloney, 5350 Llano St., Abilene, TX 79605

Utah
An Engendered Species, PO box 11897, Salt Lake City, UT 84147

Western Transsexuals Support Network, 4667 Holladay Blvd, #2, Salt Lake City, UT 84117

Virginia
Chi Epsilon Sigma (#) c/o PO Box 382, Norge, VA 2317-0382

Ladies First, 7138 Little River Turnpike, Ste 1820, Annandale, VA 22003

Trans-Gender Education Association, PO Box 16036, Arlington, VA 22215

Washington
Bellingham Gender Group, 304 W. Champion, Bellingham, WA 98225

Emerald City, PO Box 31318, Seattle, WA 98103

Ingersoll Gender Center, 1812 E. Madison, Suite 106, Seattle, WA 98122-2843

Wisconsin
Gemini Gender Group, P.O Box 44211, Milwaukee WI 53214

West Virginia
Trans-West Virginia, PO Box 2322, Huntington, WV 25724

Canada

Alberta
Phi Sigma#, PO Box 81115, 755 Lake Bonavista Dr SE, Calgary, T2J 7C9.

Illusions Club (peer support & info), PO Box 2000, Calgary, T2C 1B4. Phone: +1 (403) 236-7072.

Serenity, Box 81115, 755 Lake Bonavista Dr SE, Calgary, Alberta T2J 7C9

British Columbia
Cornbury Society, PO Box 3745, Vancouver, V6B 3Z1, Phone: 604-415-2767.

Zenith Foundation, 8415 Granville Street, PO Box 46, Vancouver, V6P 4Z9.

Ontario
Gender Metaphor, 829 Northwest Road, Suite 715, Kingston, Ontario K7P-2N3.

Gender Mosaic, PO Box 7421, Ottawa, K1L 8E4. Phone: +1 (819) 770-1945

Xpressions, P.O. Box 223, Station A, Toronto, M5W 1B2, Voice mail: +1 (416) 812-6879.

Quebec
Club MET, 4113 Dorion St., Montreal, H2K 3B8.
Phone: +1 (514) 528-8874

FACT - Quebec, PO Box 293, 5858 Cote-de-Neiges Boulevard, Montreal, H3S 2S6.

Community Calendar

April 2000

27 - 30, 10th California Dreamin', Golden Gateway Holiday Inn in San Francisco. Info from PPOC/California Dreamin', PO Box 1088, Yorba Linda, CA 92885, calling (714) 281-0271.

May 2000

4 - 7, Fourth International Congress on Sex & Gender, Philadelphia, Pa., at the Warwick Hotel, sponsored by the Renaissance Transgender Assoc., Inc. Call 610-975-9119 for registration details. Call the Warwick at 800-523-4210 or 215-735-6000.

June 2000

1 - 4, Enigma Fantasy Weekend, at Sanibel Beach, Sanibel Island, Florida. For information email Dr. Alycia Ellison or call 941-481-1410, or write Enigma Gender Consultants, 8660 College Pkwy, Suite 230 Fort Myers, Fl. 33919

September 2000

16, Special TG Event, in Philadelphia, Pa. sponsored by CDTips. Daytime seminars. Casino/Cabaret Nite. For more info call CDTips at 215-878-3383 or email Lynda at: cdtips@aol.com

26 - 10/1, Southern Comfort Conference 2000, at the Sheraton Buckhead Hotel, Atlanta and Sheraton Four Points Buckhead. Write: P.O. Box 77591, Atlanta, GA 30357-1591 or Call: (404) 633-6470 E-mail: info@sccatl.org.

October 2000

12 - 15, Fall Harvest 2000, St. Louis, Mo, at the Henry VIII Hotel and Conference Center. For more info write: Fall Harvest 2000, P.O. Box 9424, St. Louis MO 63117, or via e-mail: FH2000@juno.com

November 2000

2 – 5, Paradise In The Poconos 2000, an extended weekend for CDs in the Pennsylvania Pocono mountains with parties, programs and lots of fun. Contact CDS, PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406, or call 610-640-9449, or send email to: poco@cdspub.com.

Flash Back

Ms Bob & Carol Kleinmaier

Le Carrousel – Part 1

Paris! Now we return to *Paris!* (that's pronounced "Par-ee"). Our subject is **Le Carrousel**, in the 1950's the world's most famous female impersonator venue. There are several reasons for this, not the least of which is *Paris!* itself. In this era Paris was truly the fashion and *haute coteur capital of the world*. So all eyes were already on the city and Paris knew people were watching. Christine Jorgensen may have had her "sex change" in Denmark. She may have been the one to focus the world's attention on the possibilities of gender variance. But the most beautiful transsexuals and "hormone queens" were to be seen in Paris on the stage of Le Carrousel.

There was something about Paris that insisted on being first in everything cultural and artistic. Paris had to be the style-setter, the destination of the jet set, the leader in fashion and all things bright and breathtaking. And if you couldn't be first, you had to at least be noticed. Christine always claimed to be shy and retiring, uncomfortable in the limelight. In France transsexuals flaunted their newly gained pulchritude in ways that would have been considered shameful in the United Puritan States of America. Christine was always a proper lady, so proper that in one interview she said she always locked the bathroom door when taking a shower. (Maybe she'd seen *Psycho* too many times?) But in Paris Le Carrousel's performers practically took showers on the streets screaming, "Look at me. Look at ME!" And since Le Carrousel's girls were prettier and more voluptuous than Christine, people looked and looked. Le Carrousel's business was providing the view, putting the frame around the picture and business was good.

Le Carrousel was "the most expensive club in a wildly expensive city." Marcel Wuysmann opened it in October 1947. All the performers addressed him as *Monsieur* Marcel. Only Bambi and Coccinelle would leave off the respectful *Monsieur*, probably to remind the rest of the cast who the most beautiful stars were. In *April Ashley's Odyssey* Monsieur Marcel is described as, "a tough French Algerian." He seems to have cultivated this image. Though April sometimes refers to him in almost fatherly tones, Marcel carefully maintained a despotic edge: "Marcel's aspect was even more forbidding when he wore 'shades' because his true nature, deeply ironical, which otherwise showed in his eyes, was concealed."

We can observe *Monsieur* Marcel in action at April's audition. After meeting Robert Lasquin, the artistic director, April was told to wait for *le patron, Monsieur* Marcel. She waited for hours. By the time M. Marcel arrived, the 21 year-old would-be star was a nervous wreck; "he barged in scowling. He looked me over as if I were a piece of furniture, went out, came back, and said in broken English, 'So what do you do?' 'Nothing, monsieur.' 'Nothing. I see. Nothing.' Monsieur Marcel frowned...'O.K., we teach you.'"

Which is how in 1956 George Jamieson became

An early photo of Coccinelle.
▼ Compare it to the one at right.

▲ This is one of the more common photos of Coccinelle.

female impersonator Toni April. Toni April wasn't the only pretty boy to be hired without any prior stage experience. In her biography, *Reverse Sex*, Coccinelle, then Jacques Dufresnoy, relates how she arrived at the audition *en femme* and actually fooled M. Marcel. "'*Nom de Dieu!*' he gasped. 'Can I believe it? Yes, yes, it is true. You had me confused. Let me explain that this is the first time I've been taken in like that.'" If April felt M. Marcel examined her like a "piece of furniture," it was nothing compared to the examination Coccinelle endured before being offer a job. "He grabbed hold of my hair, tugging it violently. The wig was no longer on my head but in his hand...He freely explored my body, starting with my teeth, then ears, then discovered my breasts were artificial and finally compared the size of my foot with his own. He studied me as a veterinary would examine a horse...from all angles."

Monsieur Marcel had opened another nightclub featuring female impersonators, Madame Arthur's (three years earlier say some sources, the same year say others). April calls it "le Carrousel's poor relation in *Pigalle.*" Several books say Madame Arthur's was "owned" by Marcel's wife. So this husband and wife team controlled Paris' two most important clubs featuring female impersonators. In April's words, "They could be a fierce couple."

Le Carrousel must have been a "step up" for M. Marcel. The neighborhood was an improvement over the dark alleys of *Pigalle* and it was getting better, though it was a long way from the upper crust respectability of *St Germain des Prés.* But, now that he'd made this investment, M. Marcel was serious about making the club work. Le Carrousel was open seven nights a week and the performers worked every night. A new show was presented every January. During the summer, part of the company performed in the South of France at *Juan-les-Pins* near *Cannes* on the *Côte d'Azur.* There were also tours to Germany, Scandinavia, South America and Italy. In Italy they performed in Milan, Bologna, Viareggio, Naples, Florence, but not Rome. Rome, says April, "was the Papal City and the Church didn't want types like us in it."

For the stage performers "...the *régime* at Le Carrousel was very strict. If you missed a rehearsal or a performance without notification you would be suspended without pay. For fighting, the suspension was ten days. Since most of us were living hand-to-mouth in hotels, suspension could be disaster. No drink backstage and no visitors except by permission of M. Marcel, and absolutely no fraternising *(sic)* in the *salle* (where the public sat), again except with his permission. He was quite the autocrat." The "no fraternising" was also the rule at San Francisco's famous Finocchio's at this time.

Since we've mentioned them more than once, a digression about our "sources" seems in order. Unfortunately, there aren't many in English. Books about theatrical female impersonation are virtually jingoistic. With few exceptions English books talk about Brits; American books discuss Americans, period. Because Mme. Arthur's and Le Carrousel are French, they've received less coverage than they deserve. Our principle source is the autobiography referred to earlier, *April Ashley's Odyssey* (1982), which she wrote with Duncan Fallowell. Any unattributed quotes are from this wonderfully written, fun and informative book.

The photographs used with this article are from Le Carrousel programs. There's very little text in the programs, no list of acts or bios of the performers. But one program includes the following camp copy about the club and its Puritan critics.

continued next page

"In October 1947 a bomb exploded on the *Champs-Élysées*. It was an altogether peaceful bomb. Its explosion of sequins, light and *esprit* enchanted all of Paris *(le Tout-Paris)* and quickly made a *rendez-vous* of 40 *rue du Colisée,* though there was no sign crying out for the attention of passers by. Stuffy sorts, who judged this venue to be beneath visiting, couldn't understand what attracted jet set celebrities. Imagine the day when they entered and at last understood that the success was well merited. The tact and good taste of the performances, the lyrics and the originality of these sparkling revues justified the prodigious debut of Le Carrousel; the only Carrousel of its kind in the world. Although this rare and beautiful show seemed to permit every sort of ambiguity, it can, none the less, be enjoyed by anyone.

To those who are still astonished that young men play feminine roles, and become hypocritically indignant, we reply that Classical tradition and Elizabethan theatre required that all heroines be of the stronger sex. It was regarded as shameful and decadent for women to show themselves on stage and those who did were excommunicated.

Things have changed. Thank God! Art, in whatever form it manifests itself, should have a place in a city like Paris. Here every liberty is permitted on the condition that it is displayed with grace and talent. The artistes of Le Carrousel lack nothing in this regard. Every night they realize a veritable tableau without falling into either vulgarity or facile effects. This *tour de force* fully justifies le Carrousel's durable five-year run and has made it one of the most renowned cabarets in Paris.

That which seemed a supreme impossibility is realized here with the hand of a master using a rhythm that excludes neither satire nor poetry. Such success leaves the soul pondering the confusion of the sexes and the eternal "Lilith."

The same confident prose is used in this ad from the Parisian magazine *le Crapouillot* in the issue devoted to "Sexuality Around the World," April, 1951:

It has been six years since le Carrousel had its thunderous debut which enchanted all of Paris *(le Tout-Paris)* and made the entire world run to 40 rue du Colisée. The basis of Le Carrousel's success is the care brought to this twinkling revue of sequins and *esprit;* the novelty of the genre and the elegance of the room. However naughty, the revue has achieved complete acceptance, as our guest book demonstrates. Our guest book is probably the most sensational document of the current era in Paris.

It was in 1947 that Le Carrousel inaugurated a rapid-fire show that would subsequently be imitated all the way to *St Germain des Prés*. Well known authors come here to absorb new ideas and the great coutiers often drew inspiration from the originally of the costumes or gowns worn by the *travesti* of this celebrated cabaret. Our foreign tours have been unprecedented triumphs. Le Carrousel has defied with the tradition of dreary, dark clubs *(boites d'ennui)* by bringing something new, if not something sensible, to the brilliant and inimitable Paris nights.

To be continued...

▼ George Jamison became known as Toni April

▲ Miriam was another well-known performer at Le Carrousel.

▲ Bambi is another blonde-bombshell performer.

Even back in the 50's performers adopted whimsical names. This is Kisimie. ▼

We would like to thank GERARD KOSKOVICH for translating the French text in the le Carrousel program and bringing the le Crapouillot ad to our attention.

Ms BOB is seeking a copy of *Drag* (Queens Liberation Front) vol. 3, #9, 1973 and *Female Mimics* (Health Knowledge) #6, Aug, 1965. She can be contacted c/o *Lady Like* or at <msbob@tgforum.com>.

Visit Ms Bob's Online Book Shoppe & Ephemera Emporium at <www.3dcom.com/msbob/> where you can find many drag-related items for sale and trade.

CAROL KLEINMAIER is a founding member of Transgendered Nation. For over a decade she has been an activist for both gender and AIDS issues.

If there is any subject or person you'd be interested having covered in FLASH BACK, *Lady Like*'s history column, please, let us know and we will try to oblige.

Drag Trivia Quiz

by Madeline Rose

Our new film reviewer starts us off with a slick set of Trivia questions. How many answers do you know?

50 Drag Trivia Questions – Part 1

1. For their roles as Josephine and Daphne in *Some Like It Hot*, 1959, what famous female impersonator taught Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon how to act as women?

2. List three films for which Charlie Chaplin wore a dress.

3. According to the film *To Wong Foo, Thanks For Everything, Julie Newmar!*, 1995, what are the four steps to becoming a drag queen?

4. Who said, "Ever since they found out that Lassie was a boy, the public has believed the worst about Hollywood"?

5. What was Divine's real name?

6. One-week-old Greg Giese portrayed which two characters in *Gone With The Wind*, 1939?

7. Who was Priscilla in *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen Of The Desert*, 1995?

8. Who exclaimed "because I just went gay all of a sudden" when caught wearing a woman's negligee?

9. Who was Old Mother Riley?

10. How was Mrs. Doubtfire's true gender first exposed?

11. Before becoming half of a comedy duo, this actor was a stuntman who took a fall for Dolores Del Rio in *Trail of '98*, 1928.

12. Name the Western in which Marlon Brando dressed as a woman to capture outlaw Jack Nicholson?

13. He performed on Broadway, starred in a dozen films, had a theatre named in his honor, hawked his own brand of cold cream, and appeared in advertisements for bust developers, corsets and pipe tobacco. Who was he?

14. Which *3rd Rock From The Sun* television star played a transsexual, former football player Roberta Muldoon in *The World According To Garp*, 1982?

15. Who was featured as Kelly and Leon's Minstrels' male prima donna?

16. Who was Vesta Tilley?

17. Jack Lord of *Hawaii Five-0* fame appeared with female impersonator T. C. Jones in what film?

18. Who are the following: the Trocks, French Dressing, the Cockettes, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and Bloolips?

19. True or false? James Cagney began his acting career as a female impersonator.

20. Name two sit-coms in which Charles Pierce guest starred.

21. Jim Bailey imitated which comedienne on *Here's Lucy?*

22. List the characters enacted by Tony Randall in *The Seven Faces Of Doctor Lao*, 1964.

23. In *Morocco*, 1930, which actress wore a tuxedo and kissed a woman?

24. Debbie Reynolds was the reincarnation of a murdered philanderer in which film?

25. In what film did Jack Benny dress as an old woman from Brazil, where the nuts come from?

The Answers:

1. Barbette was a famous female impersonator from Texas who found success in Paris doing a trapeze act while in drag. He taught Curtis and Lemmon how to use their hands and walk like women. Curtis took to walking in heels right off. Lemmon, however was awkward. Barbette became so frustrated in trying to teach Lemmon how Daphne should act, that he finally gave up and went back to France.

2. The movies are: *The Masquerader* 1914; *A Busy Day* 1914; and *A Woman* 1915. *The Masquerader* shows Chaplin as an untalented actor fired from a movie studio. He returns and proves his acting worth by dressing as a woman and charming the director. However, his disguise is unveiled and he's chased from the studio again. In *A Woman* Chaplin is hiding in his girlfriend's home from two men in hot pursuit. They come to the house so he must find a disguise. He dresses as a woman and infatuates the men. His true gender is discovered and a chase scene ends the film's story. Chaplin plays the role of a woman in *A Busy Day*. He is the jealous wife of Mark Swain. She finds her husband with another woman and has a fit. Mrs. Swain becomes entangled with the police and ends up in the river.

3. According to Veda Boeheme (Patrick Swayze) and Noxzema Jackson—daughter of Jesse (Wesley Snipes)—

the four steps in becoming a drag queen are: 1) Have good thoughts for your sword and shield, 2) Ignore adversity, 3) Abide by the rules of love, and 4) Be larger than life; it's just the right size!

4. Groucho Marx. Lassie was a female collie, but in actuality the real canine was male. Other gender-bender dogs are: Terry, Dorothy's Toto in *The Wizard of Oz*, 1939; Benji of the Benji film series; the Budweiser pit bull Spuds MacKenzie; and Gidget, the Taco Bell Chihuahua.

5. Glenn Harris Milstead (1946–1988) found fame as Divine. On his tombstone is written both his real name and his drag name by request of his loving family. Divine appeared in: *Roman Candles 1966, Eat Your Makeup 1968, Mondo Trasho 1970, The Diane Linkletter Story 1970, Luminous Procuress 1971, Multiple Maniacs 1971, Pink Flamingos: A Trip Through Decadence 1972, Female Trouble 1974, Underground And Emmigrants 1976, Tally Brown N. Y. 1979, I Wanna Be A Beauty Queen 1979, Polyester 1981, Lust In The Dust 1984, Trouble In Mind 1985, Divine-Live At The Hippodrome 1985, Divine Waters 1985, Out Of The Dark 1988, Hairspray 1988, Tdc's The Incredibly Strange Film Show: John Waters "the Pope Of Trash" 1988, Divine 1990, The John Waters Archives 1997, Divine Trash 1998, In Bad Taste 1999.*

6. Greg Giese portrayed Scarlett and Rhett's newborn daughter, Bonnie Blue Butler, as well as Melanie and Ashley's newborn son, Beau Wilkes. Another instance of baby "gender-bending" was the movie *Addams Family Values*, 1993, in which twin sisters Kaitlyn and Kristen Hooper played Pubert Addams complete with mustache.

7. Priscilla was the bus driven by Mitzi (Hugo Weaving), Felicia (Guy Pearce) and Bernadette (Terence Stamp) as they trod the Australian Outback.

8. Cary Grant shouted the remark in *Bringing Up Baby*, 1938. Grant attempted a bit of drag in *My Favorite Wife, 1940* and dressed completely for *I Was A Male War Bride, 1949.*

9. Arthur Lucan was the actor behind the scrubwoman Old Mother Riley. Lucan created the character as a pantomime dame, a traditional role in the British music halls. Lucan's wife, Kitty, played Old Mother Riley's daughter. Old Mother Riley found fame in a series of popular films including: *Stars On Parade 1935, Old Mother Riley 1937, Old Mother Riley In Paris 1938 Aka Old Mother Riley Catches A Quisling 1942, Old Mother Riley Mp 1939, Old Mother Riley Joins Up 1939, Old Mother Riley In Business 1940, Old Mother Riley In Society 1940, Old Mother Riley's Circus 1941, Old Mother Riley's Ghosts 1941, Old Mother Riley Overseas 1943, Old Mother Riley Detective 1943, Old Mother Riley At Home 1945, Old Mother Riley's New Venture 1949, Old Mother Riley Headmistress 1950, Old Mother Riley's Jungle Treasure 1951, And Old Mother Riley Meets The Vampire, aka Vampire Over London 1952* (with Bela Lugosi).

10. Mrs. Doubtfire's true gender was discovered when she was caught peeing standing up by one of the children. Robin Williams had a drag time as Mrs. Doubtfire. Williams was an actor in the film married to Sally Fields' character. Troubles rocked their marriage and Williams left. He wished to see his kids and devised the scheme of dressing up as a woman named Mrs. Doubtfire, with the help of his brother played by Harvey Fierstein. Mrs. Doubtfire was then hired to be the babysitter for the children.

11. Lou Costello dressed as Dolores Del Rio for the stunt. He stunted for actors and actresses in more than sixty films. But he injured himself once too often and left stunt work. He was on his way to New York but found work as a burlesque comic in Missouri. It was in 1933 when he teamed up with Bud Abbott and the duo became known as Abbott & Costello. They met at New York's Eltinge Theatre named after famed impersonator Julian Eltinge.

12. Brando dressed as a woman in *The Missouri Breaks, 1976.* Western dudes and sidekicks resorted to female impersonation for not only capturing outlaws but also for comic relief. Some Western films which contain drag performances by actors are Smiley Burnett in *Guns And Guitars 1936, Oh, Susanna! 1936, Gold Mine In The Sky 1938, West Of Sonora 1947 Laramie 1949;* Leo Carillo *in Moonlight And Cactus 1944;* George "Gabby" Hayes *In The Lucky Texan 1934;* Fuzzy Knight *In Stagecoach Buckaroo 1941;* Don Knotts *In The Shakiest Gun In The West 1968, The Apple Dumpling Gang Rides Again 1979;* Ross Martin *In The Wild Wild West Revisited;* and Sid Saylor *In Six Gun Man 1946.*

13. Julian Eltinge (1883–1941) was the foremost female impersonator during the heyday of Vaudeville and silent movies. He appeared in drag on Broadway with musical comedies. Eltinge's first professional appearance was in *Mr. Wix of Wickham* in 1904. Tours of his plays were successful from New York to Oregon. Many of his plays were the basis for his silent films. In 1911, producer A. H. Woods named his 42nd street theatre for Eltinge. In

continued page 39

Mistress Lisa's

Dressing Room

Boutique, Wig Shoppe & Transformation Salon

A complete shopping experience for the discriminating crossdresser. Corsets, Maid's Uniforms, Lingerie, Shoes in larger sizes, Fetish Wear, Breast Forms, Fashions for the Stage, the Street or Boudoir. Let Mistress transfrom you into the woman you always wished you could be!

Open: 12–9 pm, Mon.–Fri.
12 - 5 pm Sat.

Join us on the third Saturday of each month for a party in our exclusive private club.

A true salon setting with an experienced female staff

The Dressing Room
42310 Hayes Rd.
Clinton Twp, MI 48038
810-286-0412 • fax 810-286-6626
Email: dressroom@aol.com
www.misslisadressingroom.com

Available is a catalog of my art prints for $10.00, plus $2.50 for shipping & handling

Hire
Transsexual Artist
Charles (Karen) Stidham
for
PORTRAIT
CARTOONING
GRAPHIC ART
ACRYLIC PAINTING
WATERCOLOR
PEN & INK
COMPUTER ART

To hire me or to buy the catalog, contact me at

Charles or Karen Stidham
2217 Huntingdon Ave.
Baltimore MD 21211-3211
Phone: 410-752-8779
Call between 6 and 9pm EST

50 Drag Trivia Questions
Answers: cont'd...

1999, the Eltinge, renamed the Empire, became the center of a multiplex.

14. John Lithgow played transsexual Roberta with great dignity in this film starring Robin Williams. Other films which feature transsexuals are *Dog Day Afternoon 1975, The East Is Red 1993, Eat The Rich 1987, For Your Eyes Only 1981, Mixed Nuts 1994, Shadey 1987 And Soapdish 1991.*

15. The Only Leon was the male prima donna in Kelly and Leon's Minstrels in the years after the Civil War. Leon was the highest paid minstrel in the United States at the time. His female impersonation act included dressing in the best women's fashion, singing and ballet dancing.

16. Vesta Tilley was a male impersonator popular in England from 1870 until her retirement in 1920. Starting in 1903, she appeared in several short silent films based on her stage male impersonations. She appeared in the British music halls as sailors, soldiers and men-about-town, singing songs as men would sing them. Other male impersonators who competed for audiences with Tilley included Kate Harley, Millie Hyton, Bessie Bonehill, Fanny Robina, Ella Shields and Hetty King who was billed as "King of Male Impersonators".

17. Lord and Jones appeared in the film *The Name Of The Game Is Kill/ Lovers In Limbo/The Female Trap,* 1968. Jones imitated many famous female performers, appearing on Broadway in *Him 1946, New Faces Of 1956, My Dear Public, Sadie Thompson, Polonaise* (with Imogene Coca), *Mask And Gown 1957, Jackpot, Girl From Nantucket And One Touch Of Venus.* He made appearances on the television shows of Ed Sullivan, Steve Allen and Jackie Gleason. Jones died at the age of fifty in 1971.

18. The Trocks are Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, a ballet troupe of all-male dancers and male ballerinas. French Dressing was a group of men imitating the likes of Judy Garland, Julie Andrews, Helen Reddy and other performers, beginning in 1973. The Cockettes were a San Francisco based group of performers. They can be seen in the films *Luminous Procuress* and *Lip Gloss.* The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence are a group of men who dress as nuns. This charitable organization was started in 1979. Bloolips was a British group of six men who toured the United States with their farce drag production of *Lust In Space.*

19. True. After leaving the service, Cagney joined a soldier show titled *Every Sailor* in which he dressed as a woman. Soldiers in skirts were popular during World Wars I & II and shortly after each war as well. There were several films which depicted soldiers in dresses including *Best Of Enemies 1933, Grand Illusion 1937, You're In The Army Now 1941, One Of Our Airplanes Is Missing 1942, For Me And My Gal 1943, This Is The Army 1943,* and *Privates On Parade 1983.*

20. Charles Pierce won fame as an imitator of such women as Bette Davis, Katharine Hepburn and Joan Crawford. Pierce guest starred on *Laverne & Shirley* as a spy disguised as a woman. On *Designing Women,* he was a ship's porter who imitated Joan Collins and Bette Davis with a bit of Katharine Hepburn thrown in for good measure. Pierce also appeared on *Starsky & Hutch, Wonder Woman* and *Love American Style.* Pierce died in 1999.

21. Bailey imitated the divine Phyllis Diller. Bailey gives live and immaculate illusions of female stars with his specialties being Barbra Streisand, Peggy Lee and Judy Garland. He has displayed his drag talent on the television shows *The Carol Burnette Show, Vegas, Switch,* and *Night Court.*

22. Randall played Dr. Lao, Merlin the Magician, the god Pan, Appollonious of Tyona, a giant serpent, a circus spectator and the female Gorgon Medusa complete with snake-hair.

23. Marlene Dietrich wore a tuxedo in *Morocco.* She also wore masculine clothes in *Knight Without Armour,* 1937; *Blonde Venus,* 1932; and *Seven Sinners,* 1940, for which she wore a naval uniform for the musical number "The Man's in the Navy."

24. Debbie Reynolds switched sexes in *Goodbye Charlie,* 1964. She played a womanizer who came back as a woman. As time went on, Charlie enjoyed being a woman. Other gender-switch movies include *Dr, Jeckyl And Sister Hyde* 1972, *Switch* 1991, and *Myra Breckenridge* 1970.

25. *Charley's Aunt* 1941. In the story, two college men need a chaperone in order to entertain their girlfriends. So, Charley, one of the men, had his friend played by Benny, dress as his aunt from Brazil where the nuts come from. Other versions include: *Charley's Aunt* 1925 (with Syd Chaplin), *Charley's Aunt* 1930 (Charlie Ruggles), *Charley's Big-Hearted Aunt* 1940 (Arthur Askey), *Charley's Tante* 1956 (Heinz Ruehmann), *Charley's Aunt,* Playhouse 90 1957 (Art Carney), *Charley's Aunt* 1983 (Charles Grodin) and the musical version *Where's Charley?"* 1952, with Ray Bolger singing "Once in Love with Amy."

More Q&A next issue...

How To Submit Photos

If you include your mailing name and mailing address **on the back** of your photo, we will print your address with your photo in the magazine so people can write to you directly. ***If you are a subscriber***, we'll forward mail for you for the length of your subscription. Write your customer number on your photos. ***If you are NOT a subscriber***, include $10 with your photo and we will forward mail to you for 1 year. ***Note:*** Do not write on the photos with ball point ink. Use a permanent marker.

How To Reply to Photos

If you want to write to someone whose picture appears in the magazine, look for an address and write directly. Or, look for a forwarding number like FWD9999 with the photo. If there is a FWD number, write your letter, put it in an envelope and ***in pencil*** write the FWD number on the front. For ***each*** letter to be forwarded, put your letter in its envelope, correct postage in stamps and $2 in another envelope (#10 or larger) and mail it all to us here at *LadyLike* Magazine, c/o PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406-1263.

How To Subscribe

LadyLike is the publication that treats the subjects of transvestism and crossdressing as they should be treated, with respect and sophistication. Chock full of great features and loads of photos, you won't want to miss a single issue. Every issue contains important and useful information to help you realize the "ladylike" qualities within yourself.

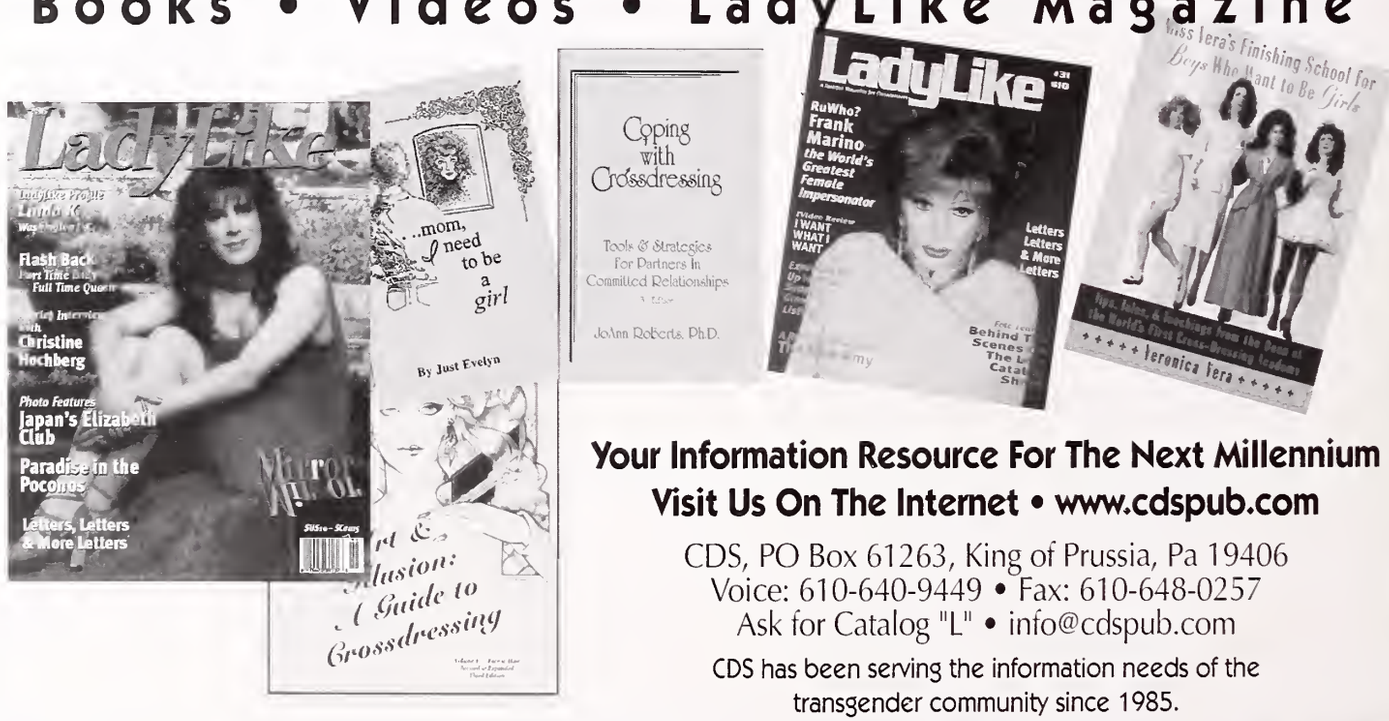
Subscription Rates: U.S. — $36; Canada/Mexico — $48; Overseas — $60
Single issues: U.S. — $13; Canada/Mexico — $15; Overseas —$17

Back Issues Available — Inquire

LadyLike Magazine, PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA USA 19406-1263

On Sale Now!

Books • Videos • LadyLike Magazine



Your Information Resource For The Next Millennium
Visit Us On The Internet • www.cdspub.com

CDS, PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, Pa 19406
Voice: 610-640-9449 • Fax: 610-648-0257
Ask for Catalog "L" • info@cdspub.com

CDS has been serving the information needs of the transgender community since 1985.

Mirror Mirror

▲ Carlotta Marie, POBox 222, Glenford NY 12433

▲ Charlotte Davis, POBox 835, Savannah GA 31402

▲ JO Merch, POBox 2672, Austin TX 78768

▲ Renee Miller, 503 Keystone St., Waterloo IA 50703

▲ Bobbi D., POBox 0071, Drayton Plains MI 48330

◄ Telzey Adams, POBox 195, Berkeley CA 94701-0195

Salina K, POBox 6336, Kansas City KS 66106 ▼

▲ Lea, 385 W State Rt 120 Howe, IN 46746

Take A Walk On The Wildside

www.wildside.org

Call, write or email
info@wildside.org
for a free info pack.

Live the fantasy in our TV Hotel, Boutique and Transformation Service in downtown Toronto. Home of the Canadian Crossdresser's Club

Check out our website featuring the Wildside on-line catalogue, chatroom and message board.

Wildside
161 Gerrard St. E. • Toronto, ON
Canada M5A 2E4
phone: 416-921-6112
fax: 416-964-8824

Diva

Instant Cleavage!

Yes, create cleavage anytime you want with our incredible *Diva* cleavage creator. No tape! No glue! No blisters! This garment is worn *under* your regular bra with breast forms and temporarily transforms your own loose breast tissue into seemingly real feminine breasts. Call or write for current pricing.

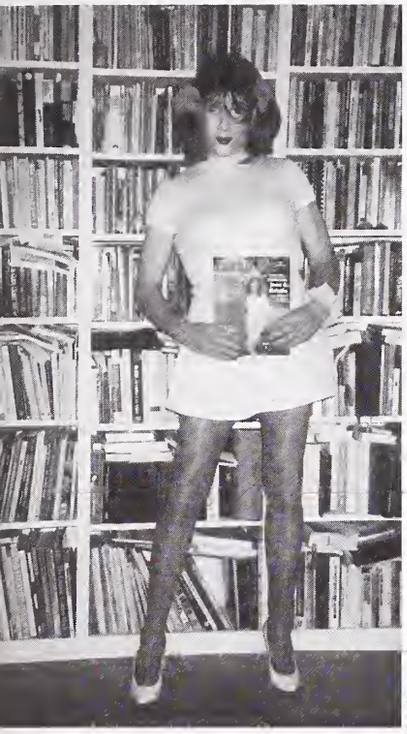
Veronica 1

Need Hips?

Our *Veronicas* are designed by computer to create a more feminine you. Each garment is custom-made to your measurements to give you perfect feminine hips. The *Veronica 1* is for swimsuits and very short skirts. The *Veronica 2* is for longer skirts, leggings or trousers.

Classic Curves
International®

Classic Curves,
PO Box 115, Wilmington, CA 90748
562-595-9148 • Outside Calif. 888-898-8787
classicurv@aol.com • www.clcrv.com
Write, call, email us for a size chart.



▲ Edie, NY

▲ Jennifer Johns, Western Pa.

▲ Carolyn, Kansas

▲ Beverly, Michigan

▲ Nancy Ann, Maryland

Mirror Mirror

▲ Barbara, Virginia

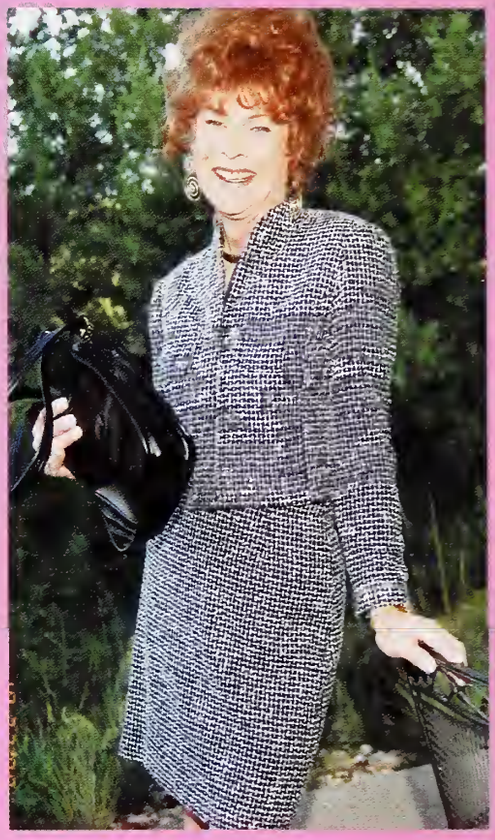
▲ Sarah Lewis, Pa.

▲ Rickee, Wash., DC

Mirror Mirror

▲ Monique, Las Vegas

▲ Michelle Lee, Ohio, mlee36ts@aol.com



▲ Laurie Ann, Ariz.

▶ Lillian Farrell, Louisville, KY FWD3267

▲ Breeze Bergan, POBox 10322, Lahaina HI 96761

▲ Felicia, New York City NY

▲ (l. to r.) Jennileigh Love and Maris Richmond, Nashville, Tenn.

Send Us Your Photo

▲ Lisa Ashley, POBox 14701, Toledo Ohio 43614

▲ Heather, POBox 1504, Manhattan KS 66505

▲ J Sheridan, POBox 697, Union NJ 07083

▲ Paula W. POBox 4305, Arcata CA 95518

M Frank, POBox 352, Buffalo NY 14231 ▼

▲ Bea Hicks, POBox 750, Golden Bridge NY 10526

Angela Gaynier, 105 E Front St, #103, Monroe MI 48161 ▼

▲ Rebecca Ann Bentley, 100 Butler St, kingston, Ontario Canada K7A 5A4

On My Mind...

Angela's editorial this issue was prompted by discussions she and I have had recently and in the past because of certain types of letters we get here at LadyLike. The most recent example was one in which the correspondent went on and on about how she loved dressing and acting like a woman, how she wanted a modeling career and how much did we pay to be on the cover of the magazine? The letter was accompanied by several photos of what looked like an NFL linebacker in a very short, very tight, ill-fitting dress with extreme makeup and wildly unrealistic hair. Oh yeah, the letter also included information about where to get feminizing hormones from overseas without a prescription.

Look, playing dress-up is one thing, but screwing around with hormones and deluding yourself into believe you can have a life as a woman is quite another. Yes, there are some people in this magazine who can and do pass themselves off as real women in everyday situations, but they don't look like a football player in a dress. And, yes, there are some people in this magazine who take feminizing hormones, but generally they do it under a doctor's care.

What I surmised from this person's letter, and others like it, is that she really hates her everyday life and has retreated to a fantasy world where life is not only tolerable, but preferable. That's very dangerous, on at least two levels. This person is moving farther and farther away from reality each day and eventually may choose to do something really dumb, like go to the mall on a Saturday afternoon. Trust me, the giggles of teenage girls can destroy the most deeply entrenched fantasies. But there is also the real physical danger of this person taking black-market hormones and without supervision. She might as well put a loaded revolver to her head, spin the cylinder, and pull the trigger. It's only a matter of time before the chemical gun she's using will kill her.

As a matter of principle, we will not print letters like hers or publish her pictures simply because we cannot and will not condone that sort of behavior.

Okay, enough with the soapbox, already! We've had a couple of good suggestions lately. One of them was a "Whatever Happened To...?" feature where we'd go back and look at where some of our past Profile girls are now. I think it might be fun. So, does anyone know where Janet Edwards got to? She was featured in LadyLike #1. If you know how to contact her, please let us know or ask her to contact us.

No one seemed to like the suggestion of taking photos with their pets. Only Ms Bob (of FlashBack fame) sent us pix, so, that bombed. But, we had such great response to the Hot babes With Hot Rods in issue #35 that we'd like to do it again. Send us a photo of you in your prettiest/sexiest/hottest/cutest/whatever-est outfit with your car, cycle, truck, whatever-vehicle-turns-you-on. We'll run the photos in issue #43 (October 2000). By the way, that's me down below with my '67 Corvette. I sold that and now have '65 big block convertible. I should have a photo of me and it by #43.

If you have an idea for a photo feature, let us know. As I've often said, your feedback is important to us and helps us to design a magazine that you'll enjoy the most.

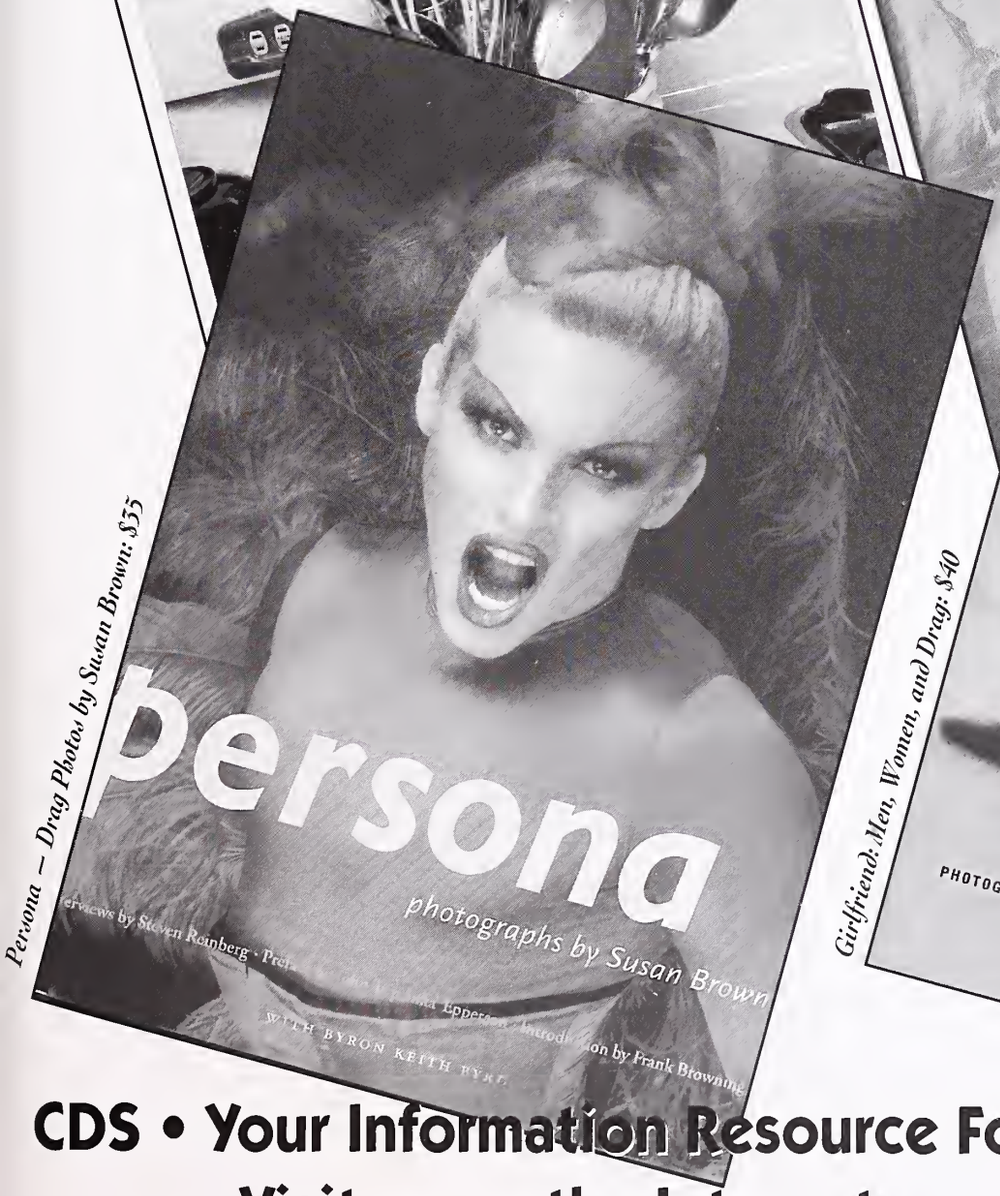
For those of you who wish we published bimonthly or more frequently, it does not look like that's going to happen anytime soon. The circulation numbers are just not there for that kind of financial commitment. Angela and I prefer to keep the mag quarterly and the quality as high as is reasonably possible. However, what we may do in the near future is increase the color content and/or add more pages. That's much more likely.

Stay frosty!

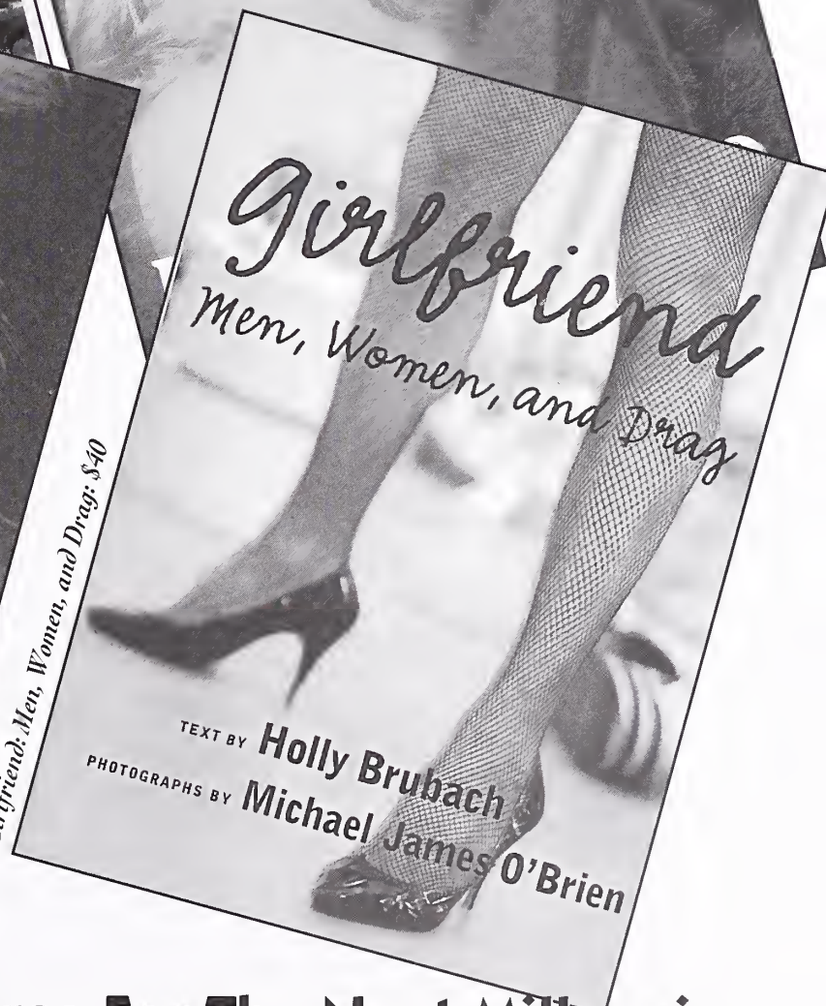
If anybody knows Drag, we do!

The Drag Queen's Cookbook & Guide to Sensible Living: $27

His Majesty The Queen — Frank Marino; $22



Persona — Drag Photos by Susan Brown: $35



Girlfriend: Men, Women, and Drag: $40

CDS • Your Information Resource For The Next Millennium

Visit us on the Internet • www.cdspub.com

CDS, Inc. • PO Box 61263 • King of Prussia, PA 19406
Voice: 610-640-9449 • Fax: 610-648-0257
Ask for free catalog "L" • info@cdspub.com

TransGenderForum

You should subscribe to TransGender Forum because...

(a) ...TGForum is kewl, neat, slick, wild, sexy, demure, coy, and hip.

(b) ...TGForum is informative, opinionated, thoughtful, humorous, and fat free!

(c) ...TGForum is the most complete transgender resource on the net.

(d) ...TGForum is the only weekly publication in the tg community.

(e) ...TGForum is a steal at $35 a year, plus your own email account plus 6 Mb of personal web space.

(f) ...TGForum is the only web resource that offers a CD-ROM.

(g) ...TGForum is all of the above!

www.tgforum.com

all the news you want... all the information you need... and a place to call home!